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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate your level of confidence that the Interior Department would issue the workers regulations this month?

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INSIDE



Nygard, 57

Stephen Nygard passes away Tuesday morning in Dallas, Texas. He was 57.

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Toxic Bug

A super-toxic bug is causing the frightening food poisoning outbreak in Europe.

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Fashion Statement

Michelle Obama turns up the glamour for another state dinner.

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Pawnshop robber gets 42 years in prison. PAGE 3
Japan disasters result in 40-percent loss for CPA. PAGE 5

NMI yet to pay \$20K in dues to APIL

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has yet to pay its annual dues for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 totaling \$20,000 to the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, even as 11 lawmakers and Legislative Bureau staffers from the Commonwealth fly off to Palau next week to attend the APIL general assembly.

Walden Weilbacher, the APIL's Central Secretariat based in Guam, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI has yet to pay the \$10,000 in annual dues for

fiscal year 2010 and another \$10,000 for fiscal year 2011.

Of the 11 from the CNMI who will be
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» **As 11 lawmakers, LB staffers jet off to Palau for assembly**

Hart vows to bring sense of stability, harmony to NMC

» **'Challenges must be viewed as a pack of hidden opportunities'**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Dr. Sharon Hart, the incoming president of the Northern Marianas College, vows to bring a sense of stabil-

ity and harmony to the institution so it could effectively achieve its goals and mission.

Hart, in an email interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said these are the keys to placing the institution in the best status possible.

"First, it is important that I help to bring a sense of stability to the college. A college has major difficulties when

See HART on Page 4

Garbage picked up on the day sisters disappeared

» **FBI scours portion of landfill for clues, evidence**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

FBI agents and police investigators scoured a garbage heap at the Marpi

landfill yesterday to look for clues or evidence in the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

As of press time, search teams failed to find any trace of the girls, who were last

reportedly seen on May 25 as they were leaving their house in As Teo on their way to a bus stop.

A Department of Public Works' official, who was at the Marpi landfill yesterday morning, told *Saipan Tribune* that
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Tragedy not spared from prank callers

» **Sorensen Media puts up \$1K reward**

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

"Stop making prank calls and spreading rumors."

This is what Sorensen Media Group Saipan branch manager Tina B. Palacios has to say to some community members who call radio stations, the

See TRAGEDY on Page 4



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Local

House again poised to tackle private land lease extensions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the Senate legislative initiative extending private land leases from 55 years to 99 years "is not dead," adding that the leadership is considering further action on either the initiative or the rejected committee report recommending passage of a substitute one.

Cabrera said he could again assign the initiative to the House Natural Resources Committee chaired by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) for review and rec-

ommendation.

"Or if there's no objection from the members, we could have a reconsideration of the action on the committee report rejected during the last session. Or we can put the initiative on the calendar again for action," he said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that should the standing committee report is put to a vote again, it will now be adopted.

"I guarantee that the committee report will go through the second time, and it [initiative] will make it to the ballot," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

A House session may be scheduled for next week.

By a vote of 9-6, the House rejected on Friday the committee report on Senate Legislative Initiative 17-4, Senate Draft 1, recommending passage of the initiative.

Palacios, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee which reviewed the initiative, expressed disappointment with members of the leadership who voted against the report, saying it was not the first time that members have shown disrespect and non-cooperation.

Cabrera said that after their leadership meeting Tuesday to discuss Palacios' concerns, he believes members are now more prepared to make a decision on the committee report on SLI 17-4 or on the initiative itself.

Palacios resigned as committee chair on Monday, but the speaker did not accept his resignation and asked him to remain with the leadership. Palacios and Cabrera said members ad-

mitted that they have been overwhelmed with other professional and personal responsibilities, which sometimes result in their inability to review bills assigned by the speaker to committees.

Those who supported adoption of the committee report said it does not make sense that the CNMI, which tries to lure investors to help its economy, does not even want to extend the number of years that foreign investors can lease private

lands, adding that passage of the initiative will be one way not to bother with the contention Article 12.

Article 12 restricts ownership of land to only those of Northern Marianas descent.

Over the years, proposals to extend permissible term for private land leases in the CNMI have been unsuccessful. The proposals included extending the 55-year term to 77 years or 99 years.

Senate president: Kiyu's rejection complies with law

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that the Senate's rejection of former senator Thomas P. Villagomez's reappointment to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors complied with the law.

Manglona, who cited legal advice from Senate legal counsel Matthew Meyer, wrote the governor a letter on June 3 "to clear up any misunderstandings" on the Senate's rejection of the governor's appointee.

"I have asked Senate legal counsel to advise me on the Senate's rejection, and I am assured

it was processed consistent with the intent of the above-named statute [Title 1 CMC 2904]," Manglona told the governor.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, said the governor's Feb. 15 letter reappointing Villagomez did not reach his office and remained with the Senate president's office.

But Cruz said it is the president's prerogative on what to do with the governor's appointment letters, saying he respects the president's decision.

The Senate legal counsel, in his June 3 memo to the Senate president, said, "As an official matter, all documents received by the Office of the Senate President are officially received by the Senate, and your authority to dispose of such matters is within your purview as Senate president."

"As such, no further action needs to be taken to comply with the clear intent of 1 CMC 2904," he said.

The Senate rejected the governor's reappointment of Villagomez, by allowing 90 days to pass without action on the nomination. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

Limtiaco launches child safety campaign in NMI



United States Attorney General Alicia A.G. Limtiaco addresses media inquiries while Division of Youth Services director Laura Ogumoro looks on during yesterday's news briefing at Northern Marianas College.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Attorney General Alicia A.G. Limtiaco formally launched yesterday the 2011 Take 25 National Child Safety Campaign in the Commonwealth, an initiative that encourages parents and guardians to take 25 minutes each day to talk to their children about safety and ways to prevent abductions.

In a news briefing at the Northern Marianas College campus, Limtiaco was joined by NMI Division of Youth Services director Laura Ogumoro in giving out tips on how families could ensure the safety of their children.

The initiative comes at an opportune time as the search for missing sisters, Faloma and Maleina Luhk, enters its 15th day today.

Prior to meeting with the media yesterday, Limtiaco talked to public schools principals and provided them information about the campaign and how parents and community members can effectively join the initiative. Besides informational materials, principals were also given emergency forms and contact numbers where they can report child abduction cases.

The Take 25 campaign is a national child safety public awareness created in 2007 by non-profit National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This campaign begins on May 1 through May 25 each year.

May 25 has been observed as National Missing Children's Day, which serves as an annual reminder that there are thou-

sands of children who are missing and stresses the importance of making child protection a national priority.

According to Limtiaco, the center was established by Congress in 1984. It has since fielded 2.5 million calls on missing children or abduction cases. The center has also assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 157,000 children and has handled 972,000 reports of sexual child exploitation.

Under the center's child victim identification program, over 40 million pornography images and videos were also handled.

The campaign is launched in partnership with various agencies, including the U.S. Attorney General's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshal's Service, NMI Department of Public Safety, Division of Youth Services, and the Public School System.

Alarming statistics

An estimated 797,500 children are reported missing each year and more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day.

An estimated 58,200 children are taken in one year by someone outside of their family and about 115 children each year experience a stereotypical kidnapping.

An estimated 203,900 children are victims of family members and taken to a non-custodial parent while 24 percent of these abductions last one week to less than a month.

National figures indicate that an estimated one in five girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before reach-

ing adulthood; while only less than 35 percent of child sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement.

In one year, an estimated 1.6 million children left their homes or stayed away overnight to escape physical or sexual abuse while about 38,600 of these children will have some type of involvement in sexual trafficking.

Besides abduction and sexual exploitation of children, Limtiaco said that many children also experience Internet dangers, online harassment, and exposure to inappropriate content.

'Spend time talking to children'

Limtiaco said National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has developed some safety tips and conversation starters that will help parents and guardians initiate an engaging 25-minute discussion with their kids.

These safety tips include:

- Parents taking their children on a walking tour of the neighborhood and indicating which homes they may visit without them;
- Teaching children their full names, address and telephone numbers as well as their parents' name and contact information;
- Instructing them to keep the house door locked at all times; and
- Setting rules for visitors.

Limtiaco declined to comment on any issues relating to the missing sisters Faloma and Maleina, who went missing last May 25, citing the ongoing investigation.

MISSING SISTERS

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Maleina
Age: 9 years old
Height: 4 feet
Weight: 50-60 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek
Last wearing: White blouse and jeans



Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Faloma
Age: 10 years old
Height: 5.1 feet
Weight: 90 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Short brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans



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Pawnshop robber gets 42 years in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who was found guilty of attempted murder and 10 other charges for his role in a 2009 armed robbery of a pawnshop was meted a 42-year prison sentence in Superior Court yesterday.

Of the 42-year sentence, the 26-year-old Fernando C. Quitano shall serve a mandatory minimum of 20 years and two months, said associate judge David A. Wiseman, with credit for time served.

"Mr. Quitano, society demands retribution for your wrongful act and that you be incapacitated or isolated from citizens of society as long as possible in order that the danger you present to society is removed," Wiseman said.

He said the mere thought of being accosted by a criminal who smashes down the door and the cashier's booth with a sledgehammer and then assaulting the two employees with a crowbar in broad daylight "is reprehensible and is of such nature which simply cannot be tolerated in a civilized society."

Wiseman ordered Quitano to pay an \$8,000 fine, \$6,919.42 in reimbursement to the pawnshop, \$100 court assessment fee, plus probation fees in an amount to be assessed by the Office of Adult Probation.

A jury found Quitano guilty on March 5, 2011, of one count of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of armed robbery, one count of burglary, one

count of theft, and one count of conspiracy to commit robbery. The jury acquitted him on one count of attempted murder.

Wiseman, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found Quitano guilty of two counts of assault and battery, and not guilty of contempt.

At yesterday's sentencing, Wiseman said that Quitano, along with another, used a sledgehammer to smash their way into 24 Hours Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 23, 2009. The two, wearing masks, smashed the glass cashier's booth and attacked the employees and a 73-year-old man with a crowbar and sledgehammer. Quitano was captured on videotape repeatedly hitting with a crowbar one of employees who was already on the ground.

Wiseman said that sentencing

decisions should be designed to ensure that prison resources are, first and foremost, reserved for violent and serious criminal offenders who pose the most danger to society. He believes that Quitano "is one of those violent and serious criminal offenders."

He noted that although a young man, Quitano has a long criminal history that includes six crimes of theft, 11 crimes of burglary, one crime of attempted robbery, one count of assault and battery, six crimes of criminal mischief, and one crime of escape.

In addition, the judge said, Quitano has another criminal case scheduled for trial where he is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery, and criminal mischief.

"The allegations in said

pending case, like the proven conduct in this case, involve extreme reckless violence of defendant," Wiseman said.

He said the 46-year-old pawnshop robbery victim had told the court how he had to undergo medical treatment and surgery for a fractured arm, lacerations in the head, and bruises in the chest and arms. As a result, the victim had to have staples for his head injury and surgery to implant a metal blade on his fractured arm.

"He is a family man who fears for his children and has nightmares of the incident," Wiseman said.

The 73-year-old victim, Jung Sang So, the judge said, was treated for bruises on the chest and had gone back to Korea and will not return to Saipan because of the incident.

Wiseman said the factor of incapacitation will remove Quitano from the community for an extended time until he is "either too old or feeble" to do anyone any harm upon his release.

Quitano's co-defendant, Marlon Martin, pleaded guilty to armed robbery and was sentenced in April 2010 to seven years in prison, with no parole.

The government dismissed the case against Zhou Fan Zhang. The fourth suspect—Steven Suzuki—was not charged after he cooperated with the government in the investigation.

'Saipan mayor violated law with wrong appointment'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said yesterday that Mayor Donald G. Flores knowingly violated a local law that requires him to designate the council chair as acting mayor in his absence.

This is Camacho's reaction after he received a copy of the memorandum issued by Flores, appointing Council member Ralph Yumul to serve as acting mayor from June 7 to 9.

Flores is in Taebaek City in South Korea to sign a sister city agreement with their local officials.

"There is a local law, and the mayor is clearly not complying with the law," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Camacho refers to Saipan Local Law 17-8, which follows the constitutional requirement that the council chair becomes the acting mayor when the Saipan mayor is physically absent from the island. In the absence of the council chair, then the vice chair becomes acting Saipan mayor.

If the presiding officer of the council is also absent, then the acting Saipan mayor shall be the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation presiding officer.

Camacho said the council

was not provided a copy of the memorandum, which he found out through the media.

"The mayor's action is insulting to the community of Saipan because he clearly violated the law," he said.

When asked if the mayor holds any grudge against him, Camacho replied, "I don't want to take it personally. I deal with matters professionally."

He added, "I'm very willing

to have an open forum with the mayor when he comes back from his trip."

Camacho compared the situation to a simple traffic violation by an ordinary citizen. "If an ordinary citizen failed to stop in a red light, the cops will cite him. In this case, who's going to cite the mayor for violating a local law? What will happen next?" he asked.

Camacho said he already talked to Vice Speaker Felicidad

Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), who authored the local law. "She's disappointed. She'll refer the matter to the speaker. I look forward for them to take action because it's the lawmakers who voted for the law and the governor signed it."

The council chair noted that he has nothing against Yumul. "But the law already gave us guidance on who should be the leader in the absence of the mayor," he added.



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Fernandez files new lawsuit against regents, NMC

Former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez filed Tuesday a new lawsuit against the college and four members of its board in relation to her termination in April last year.

Fernandez earlier sued NMC and some regents at the district court but all six charges were dismissed last month.

This time, Fernandez filed the case at the Superior Court and included former lawmaker Oscar Rasa and 10 other un-

named respondents.

In the 18-page document obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Fernandez, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, is suing NMC for breach of contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and wrongful termination.

Fernandez sued four regents—Janet King, Maria Paz Younis, Andrew Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman—for defamation and conspiracy to defame. She is suing Rasa for intentional in-

terference with contract and economic relations.

Fernandez was removed from office on April 12, 2010.

She claims that she was terminated without cause—allegedly a violation of her contract. Fernandez also claims that the regents conducted a criminal investigation against her based on false accusations of embezzlement and subsequently making public statements of the probe.

On Jan. 12, 2011, the four board members voted to suspend Fernandez, pending the outcome of the investigation against her. The probe looked into allegations that Fernandez made unauthorized changes to the grades of some students.

Fernandez claimed that she was not accorded the opportunity to be heard or defend herself and was also never told of the reason for her suspension. She claimed that it was only on Jan. 29 that she received the suspension notice.

The four members voted on April 12

to terminate her employment contract and Fernandez said the formal decision was only sent to her on April 19.

The former president is demanding actual, general, special, and compensatory damages. She also demands punitive damages, including attorney's fees and other relief.

According to the complaint, Rasa was a member of the transition committee that conducted an assessment of NMC and engaged in a series of meetings with King discussing the former president's contract. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

TRAGEDY

From Page 1

family's phone lines, and volunteer hotlines just to give false information, and, oftentimes, "bad rumor" about the two girls who went missing two weeks ago.

"There are some people out there who are really mean and would call us to say that we should go to the hospital morgue to identify the girls' bodies, or that they found the girls in plastic bags. People need to stop that. These are two missing human beings. They need to stop making up stories," she said in a phone interview yesterday.

Palacios, who is the grandaunt of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, called on these people to be more sympathetic to the girls who have been deprived of their safety.

"Whoever is playing around needs to stop. This is not a joke. It's sad. We need to find the girls," she told *Saipan*

Tribune.

Palacios said she is close to both Faloma Luhk, 10, and Maleina Luhk, 9, who were reportedly last seen sitting on a drainage cement slab across the bus stop near their As Teo residence around 6:10am on May 25, more than two weeks ago.

Faloma was last seen wearing a white blouse and a pair of blue jeans while Maleina was last seen wearing a light green shirt with a butterfly design and blue jeans. Police learned that the two sisters, who are both students of Kagman Elementary School, missed their 6:30am bus.

"The two girls do come to my house and stay on weekends. I would take them with me. They're not strangers to my home," said Palacios.

She said people who spread insensitive jokes and rumors have nothing better to do. "I hope they get caught and put in jail."

"Maybe instead of starting rumors, if you got nothing better to do, just volun-

teer in the search efforts. Help us find the girls," she added.

Cash reward

Palacios disclosed that SMG, which airs Power 99, The Kat 97.9, and ABC 7 Saipan, has offered a \$1,000 monetary reward for any information leading to the recovery of the Luhk sisters.

SMG's reward is in addition to the \$1,000 being offered by Crime Stoppers, another \$1,000 from IT&E, and the substantial \$10,000 offer by the FBI.

"We put out the reward the moment we knew that the girls were missing," said Palacios.

According to her, people should help in the search efforts even without the reward but an "extra something" will drive people to try and look harder.

"It's like when you lose something you love, you always put out a reward to get that something back," she explained. "Unfortunately in this case, it's two human beings who are missing."

GARBAGE

From Page 1

FBI agents and CNMI law enforcers arrived in the area at 7:30am yesterday. He refused to comment further.

Personnel wearing white protective suits were seen either walking around or sitting under a big tent being put up inside the landfill compound. A fire truck, an ambulance, and a marked police car were parked next to the tent.

FBI special agent Tom Simon told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that seven

FBI special agents and an evidence response team began looking for clues or evidence at the landfill at 8am.

When asked why the landfill became the focus of the search, Simon disclosed that the day when 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina went missing was also the day when garbage at As Teo was picked up.

Simon refused to discuss specific evidence issue and said that only a portion of the landfill will be scoured, not the entire dumpsite.

He said they were fortunate enough to locate the portion of the landfill

where the garbage taken from As Teo on that day was dumped, largely because of the cooperation of the landfill personnel.

"The manager there is very cooperative. They're organized there," Simon said.

He said the search for clues at the landfill may take several days based on the amount of trash.

"It's a manual process," he said. "We're looking for evidence of any kind."

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said police officers were assisting the FBI at the landfill. He did not elaborate.

HART

From Page 1

the office of the president is viewed more as a revolving door than one that brings a sense of stability and harmony. Also, it will be important for me to gain the full trust and support of the board, as well as of the faculty, staff, students, and community leaders. Only then will I be able to effectively establish and carry out a vision for NMC," she said.

For Hart, constructing a vision for NMC is not something that she will be doing alone.

She said it must be one that provides direction for where NMC is headed; must be one that is believed by the faculty, staff, students, and others that has the potential to transform the institution; and must be one that is crafted together with members of the college community taking ownership in its development.

"And then, from this vision will come the task of strategic planning to enable NMC to achieve its goals," she said.

Additionally, Hart said she will need to spend much time in the community and become acquainted with its leaders and listen to their thoughts and ideas about the college.

And even more important, she must help raise money on behalf of the college.

"So, my time will also be devoted to working with the NMC Foundation in this capacity and in helping them to achieve their fundraising goals," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Hart will officially assume the post on July 5.

Effective planning

Hart, who bested two other individuals for the post, admitted that she has much to learn as the new college president. "It is only after spending weeks and months ahead of listening, studying, and conversing with all constituents and in working with the Board of Regents that I will be able to outline my expectations and goals for the college."

These goals, she said, must first be shared internally before going public.

"What the college and the community will find is that I am a strong believer of effective planning. How we anticipate trends and determine strategies to achieve organizational goals and objectives will be key. My goal will be to work harmoniously with the board while they focus on the larger policy issues and outline specific outcomes for NMC. From these outcomes, my job as president will then be to work with the college community to develop strategic directions."

Motivation

Despite the low salary package she will get, Hart said it is her personal choice

and decision to accept the post. Hart will be paid \$80,000 annually, plus benefits.

She vowed to address salary concerns for all faculty and staff.

"The salary package for the president as well as those for the faculty and staff has been an issue at the college for many years. At the same time, it was my choice to apply for and seek the presidency at NMC. Yes, the college needs to pay competitive salaries and benefits to all employees. We do need to be benchmarked against our peer [similar] institutions. I know the entire issue around salaries and benefits is a key one for the board and something that we will need to address together," she added.

Hart acknowledged that NMC has numerous challenges. She first became aware of these challenges four years ago when she visited NMC's campuses on Saipan and Tinian. Over the years, she continued to stay abreast of issues and challenges impacting the college.

"When I saw that NMC was once again looking for a new president, I felt the time was right for me to consider the job and for joining the college. What is important is that all of NMC's challenges must be viewed as a pack of hidden opportunities. The college must be able to come together and solve these in a manner that will only push the institution forward in a successful manner," she said.

NMI

From Page 1

attending the June 15 to 17 APIL assembly, five are members of the House of Representatives, two are senators, and four are from the Legislative Bureau.

Weilbacher separately said the CNMI has an 11-member delegation to Palau next week based on their records.

In the absence of a budget for fiscal year 2010, the CNMI government automatically started operating under the 2009 budget, amounting to \$148.5 million, which included \$42,712 for "APIL/APPU."

APPU stands for Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union, whose members also include the CNMI, just like APIL.

The 2011 budget, however, does not include a specific budget for APIL/APPU.

Article 11 of the APIL bylaws requires that payment of the annual dues from each APIL member "shall be due annually on or before Oct. 31 for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1." Such payment shall be made to the Central Secretariat, who shall maintain all financial records on behalf of the Treasurer.

"Any member that has not paid its annual dues by Dec. 31 shall become an inactive member," the APIL bylaws partly read.

It's not immediately known whether the CNMI has been placed on an "inactive member" status as a result of the non-payment of at least the 2010 dues, because it has been a year after the Dec. 31, 2010, deadline for payment of the previous fiscal year's annual fee.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), a member of the APIL board of directors until January this year when Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) became the speaker, said the CNMI delegation will be turning over the CNMI's annual dues of \$10,000 for 2010 when they get to Palau for next week's general assembly.

"We only have money for one year [2010]. We are still scrounging to pay

the next one," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero will be among those attending the APIL assembly next week.

He said after asking the presiding officers of the Legislature, they agreed that annual dues to the APIL are an "allowable cost."

Deleon Guerrero also said he plans to present next week an APIL resolution expressing support to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's HR 670, which conveys 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), who was a member of the APIL board of directors for years since 1990, said he will be speaking about the CNMI's shark fin ban law, which he had authored.

APIL, in a separate statement, also said they will premiere Rob Stewart's new short video, *Sharkwater Saipan* at the assembly in Palau.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan) and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) are current members of the APIL board of directors, representing the CNMI.

Besides Ogu-moro, Reyes, Deleon Guerrero, and Benavente, the other CNMI lawmakers going to Palau for the APIL assembly are Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Those from the Legislative Bureau are director Glenna SP. Reyes, House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, a House legislative assistant, and a Senate legislative assistant.

There were "at least four" other lawmakers who initially planned to join the delegation but backed out, including Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tere-sita Santos (Ind-Rota). Two others did not want to comment on their initial plan.

There's a special APIL assembly roundtrip airfare of \$360. The normal price could be about \$680.

Other lawmakers said an 11-member delegation may be too large a number, considering that the CNMI government is trying to make ends meet.



Stephen Nygard, wife Rhea, and 11-year-old son Steve Nygard II in a Facebook photo.

Former publisher Steve Nygard, 57

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Stephen Nygard, former publisher of *Marianas Business Journal*, passed away early Tuesday morning (local time) in Dallas, Texas. He was 57.

Saipan Tribune learned that Nygard's wife, Rhea, found him collapsed on the bedroom floor when she woke up to prepare for work that morning.

Nygard, who is based in Guam, was reportedly in Dallas so he and his 11-year-old son, Steve Nygard II, can spend summer with Rhea.

Rhea called 911 but it was reportedly too late for the medics to revive Nygard.

Nygard lived on Saipan for several years before he relocated to Guam. He worked for the editorial department of the *Pacific Daily News* prior to becoming the publisher of *Marianas Business Journal*, which is a part of Glimpses Publications.

The news about Nygard's death was a shock for Century Insurance Co. president David M. Sablan.

"I knew Steve very well. He was very active in various community services," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said he and Nygard

worked together, particularly on the latter's many ideas on how the Commonwealth can move its economic situation forward.

"He was a very hard-driving person. He's the kind of guy who's determined to accomplish something. He was not reluctant to share with you his ideas. He will definitely be missed by some of the old-timers here," he said.

According to Sablan, Nygard had a "personal love for the island of Saipan" although he moved to Guam. "My prayers go to him and his family," he added.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan, when asked for comment, said he knew Nygard professionally.

"He was very active in the business community here and in Guam. My condolences to the family," he said.

Bob Coldeen, KSPN Channel 2 news director, said Nygard was also a skilled athlete. "He was a really good basketball player. He played at the Ada Gym on Saipan. He was a pleasure to watch."

According to Coldeen, it's always a shock for him whenever he hears someone younger than himself passing away. "It makes me appreciate everything more."

Japan disasters result in 40-percent loss for CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit Japan in March has resulted in a 40-percent loss in airport revenue for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, according to executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

He said the loss was mainly due to trip cancellations from the CNMI's main tourism market two months ago, and he believes the lost revenue would be difficult to regain due to the economic challenges facing the travel industry.

The Marianas Visitors Authority earlier disclosed that a total of 2,640 tourists from Japan cancelled their vacations to the Commonwealth as a result of the earthquake and tsunami

on March 11. This cancellation brought an immediate \$6 million negative impact to the islands' economy.

These cancelled trips for both Asiana Airlines and Delta Air Lines covered the period from March 11 to the end of June 2011.

Deleon Guerrero declined to specify the cash amount of these losses.

He is optimistic, though, that the rough spot is over. He said airport revenue is starting to pick up again because of new flights offered by Sichuan Airlines and Fly Guam.

CPA had projected to earn over \$16 million in combined revenues in fiscal year 2011. For the airport division, the agency had projected to collect \$10.695 million while

seaport activities were expected to bring in an additional \$6.614 million.

"We lost about 40 percent of our revenue because of the March tsunami in Japan. But with the coming in of Sichuan and Fly Guam, we're hoping to regain at least two-thirds of what we lost from Japan. CPA also instituted a very tight expenditure plan so we're optimistic that we can sustain the losses," said Deleon Guerrero.

According to CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto, the agency's financial stability was challenged by the Japan disaster.

"The March 11 disaster in Japan really changed our fund situation drastically. [The impact] is very significant and right now, we have trouble meeting our bond ratio for the

airport because of that. But if our negotiations with the Federal Aviation Administration works out, then we should have no problem in meeting the required ratio. But it all depends on those negotiations," said Sasamoto.

The comptroller was alluding to the disagreement with an independent auditor over the application of regulations and definition of reimbursement and classification of revenues, which could only be rectified by the FAA.

The required debt service ratio for both airport and seaport is 1.25. Seaport—which is currently at 1.36 ratio—has been consistently meeting this requirement. The airport failed last fiscal year. Its current debt service ratio is only 1.06.

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Outraged parents, scholars bombard SHEFA with calls

» Many recipients face eviction from dorms due to delayed checks

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance office has been bombarded by calls from outraged parents and scholars complaining about the continued delay in students' financial assistance for the current semester.

Board chair Jose Mafnas

confirmed receiving calls from angry parents and guardians asking for the release of scholars' checks so students can start processing their requirements for the next semester.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider added that a number of scholars have already been threatened with eviction from their dormitories and apartments because of the

non-payment of their rent.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Department of Finance has yet to release \$630,900 in financial assistance for SHEFA scholars for the spring 2011 semester, mainly due to the government's cash-flow problem.

"Parents are calling, students are calling...and conversations are not getting any friendlier. Parents are informing us that

their students may be evicted from their apartments if they will not pay their rent. Parents [says] they can no longer provide assistance or help them with their expenses because of the current economic hardship," said Hofschneider.

He disclosed that many students are worried they may not be able to enroll on time next semester if they fail to pay their debts as their schools may not release their transcripts and other records.

He said his job has come down to responding to outraged callers to explain the government's fiscal situation.

The spring semester is expected to end this month, yet majority of SHEFA scholars this semester have yet to receive their financial

awards. The fall 2012 semester will start in August.

SHEFA records indicate that it had already submitted to Finance three batches of check request; so far, no disbursement has been ordered.

The first request was turned in on April 14 for \$587,700, followed on April 20 for \$28,000, and then on May 27 for \$15,200, altogether totaling \$630,900 for field of study and incentive award scholars.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the \$906,000 total spring 2011 awards approved, only \$182,800 has been disbursed, mostly for grant-in-aid scholars for the current semester.

Hofschneider said that a \$92,300 check request will be submitted soon to Finance,

completing the total check requests for this semester.

"We're hopeful that spring semester checks would be released soon so students can pay down their debts for the release of their transcripts so they can register for the next semester," said Hofschneider.

Because of the expected lower revenue from poker fees, Mafnas concedes that the disbursement of awards for SHEFA scholars will see an "overlap."

"I have a feeling that there will be overlap again...so we need to make the necessary adjustment as soon as possible. We need to revisit our program and make a decision," he told board members.

Last fall 2010 semester, SHEFA disbursed \$2.3 million in total financial assistance to scholars, leaving just \$906,900 for the spring 2011 semester.

30th Flame Tree Arts Festival kicks off tonight

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The much awaited 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival opens tonight at 6pm at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

The Arts Council and the festival committee announced that some of the off-island delegates participating in this year's festivities have already arrived.

The nine-member delegation from New Zealand, which will perform on Saturday and Sunday, arrived early Wednesday morning after a layover in Guam.

Meanwhile, the 36-member Hula Dream Team from Fussa City in Japan is scheduled to arrive early Friday morning to present traditional folk dances and their own Polynesian moves during their performance on Saturday.

Overall festival committee chair Parker Y. Yobei said they are very excited to welcome the off-island delegates.

"We are saddened, however, that the performing artists we expect from Palau, Guam, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Rota, and Tinian had to pull out at the last minute due to lack of resources," he said.

According to Yobei, the Arts Council could not afford to cover the travel and accommodation expenses for the performers unlike in the previous years "as we are operating on a tight budget."

For his part, Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog encouraged the public to "look at the brighter side of things" and welcome the New Zealand and Japan delegations as well as support the talented local performers.

"I urge the community to

watch our guests perform during the festival and extend our island hospitality to them," said Hocog. "Let us support the advancement of arts and culture in the Commonwealth by taking part in the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival."

Yobei said there will be eight food vendor booths and 60 artist booths for the public to visit and enjoy in this year's festival, which will run until Sunday.

Raffle tickets and souvenir T-shirts will also be available for sale at the festival grounds.

The largest cultural event in the CNMI, Flame Tree Arts Festival promotes and perpetuates the knowledge and skills of gifted local artists by providing an avenue for them to demonstrate and display their exceptional arts and crafts.

This year's theme is "30 years of Uniting Cultures and Traditions."

2 in driver's license scam case plead guilty

Two of five persons indicted for alleged involvement in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court as part of a plea deal.

Hongmei Sun and Hui Qiang Yan appeared with their court-appointed counsels, Robert T. Torres and Stephen Woodruff, for a change of plea hearing.

Both pleaded guilty to one count of the indictment.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour accepted Sun's guilty plea and set the sentence

for Sept. 14, 2011.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, the judge was still explaining the proceedings to Yan.

The indictment charged Sun with one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer an identification document, two counts of unlawful production of an identification card, and two counts of unlawful transfer of an identification document.

Yan was charged with one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer of an identification document, one

count of unlawful production of an identification document, and one count of unlawful transfer of an identification document.

William A. Hocog, a former supervisor at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is also a co-defendant in the case, was seen outside the courtroom talking with his counsel, Vicente Salas. It was not clear whether he also pleaded guilty.

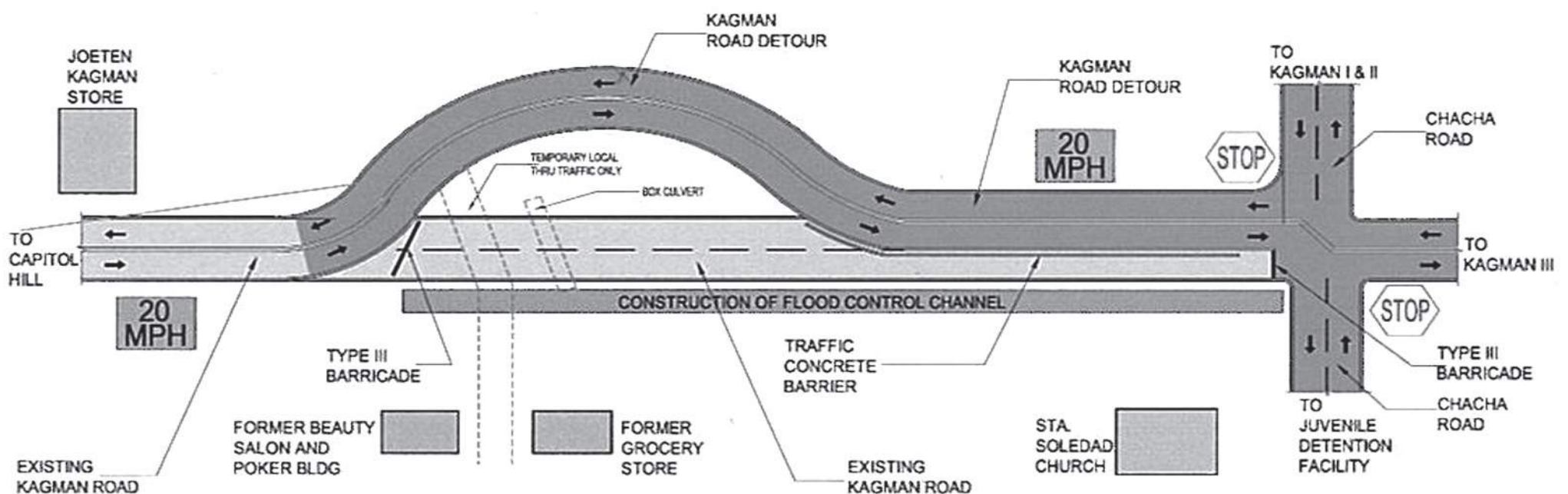
The other co-defendants in the case are Mohammad Jahangir Miah and his wife Tahira Dolores S. Miah. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective June 23, 2011, Kagman Road traffic will be detoured as depicted below to allow for the safe construction of an underground Flood Control Channel and a large Box Culvert as part of the Kagman Watershed Project. This paved detour is expected to remain in place throughout the construction at a reduced speed of 20 MPH.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

RNV CONSTRUCTION





School gives thanks to SDA clinic for \$50K scholarships

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To show their appreciation, students and staff of the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School presented the SDA Clinic with a certificate of appreciation for its generous contribution to the school's scholarship program.

About 17 students from toddler to 10th grade joined school principal Michael Berglund and accountant/PR director Virle Shay Gayatin in presenting the certificate to the clinic staff headed by clinic director Kenneth Pierson in a brief ceremony at the clinic on Tuesday.

"We thank SDA Clinic for providing scholarships to our students. We especially thank all the employees—from providers to the maintenance staff—who made this scholarship available. We commend you for your hard work," Berglund said as he handed the certificate to Pierson.

According to Berglund, SDA's mission on Saipan is "to leave the island a better place than we found it."

"With the partnership of the school and clinic, we provide

quality health care and Christian education, making our mission possible," he said.

Pierson said they are very pleased with the wonderful job the school is doing for the students. "It's really something we feel privileged to provide. The scholarship makes it possible for all children of economic backgrounds and races to attend the SDA School," he added.

Berglund told reporters in an interview that the clinic awarded some \$50,000 in scholarship funds this school year, the first time that the clinic got involved in the scholarship program.

The scholarship program, Berglund said, helped a total of 34 scholars from pre-school to 8th grade to obtain a quality education.

He disclosed that the clinic board on Thursday agreed to donate another \$50,000 to the scholarship program next school year.

"It's really nice that we have the support of our sister institution, that they support our cause. The amount of money they give is far and away and we just feel really blessed," said Berglund.

Man allegedly throws rock at GF's car

Police arrested over the weekend a man who allegedly threw a rock at his girlfriend's car and broke its front windshield on Saturday in Kagman.

Anthony Jay Casil, 21, was arrested for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$100 cash and \$900 unsecured bond.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a patrol officer had responded to Kagman I Saturday afternoon after a criminal mischief complaint was called to the Department of Public Safety. The victim and her father met the patrol officer at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman.

The victim told the officer that she and her boyfriend, Casil, were at a store with her 11-year-old brother earlier that day when a Ford Explorer SUV came and parked on the left side of their car.

A little girl opened the front right passenger door and hit

their car. The girl apologized so the victim told her it was okay. Casil, however, got mad and opened the driver's door and hit the Explorer thrice. The girlfriend yelled at Casil because in doing so he was also damaging their car.

When they left the store, Casil allegedly drove recklessly on the road and on the gravel road until they reached the house of his uncle.

Casil slammed the car's door and also punched the window then walked away. The girlfriend left him there as she went back home to drop off her 11-year-old brother.

The girlfriend later went back to Casil to get her laptop. As she was backing up the car to leave, she heard something hit the windshield and it cracked. Casil then walked up to her and laughed. She left and called her father, who then called the police. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic director Kenneth Pierson, far left, holds the certificate of appreciation presented by SDA School staff and students in a presentation at the clinic yesterday morning. The clinic board approved on Thursday another \$50,000 donation to help the school's scholarship program next school year.



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Reunification survey to be held at arts festival

The NMC Marianas Reunification Survey Group, composed of students from a Northern Marianas College Current Issues class, is inviting the public to participate in a public opinion survey that will be conducted on the grounds of the Flame Tree Arts Festival on June 9, 10, 11,

and 12. Participants need only to take the survey on one of the dates. Survey venues and dates for the residents of Rota and Tinian will be announced soon.

Results from the survey will complement House Bill 17-181, introduced by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), which would

push for the inclusion of the question "Should the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, reunify in pursuit of a new political status?" on the general election ballot.

As mentioned previously, the survey will be non-bind-

ing, which means that its results will not affect any prospective law or policy.

For more information, contact NMC instructor Sam McPhetres at 234-5498 ext. 1204, or 233-3339. You can also send him an email at sam0838@aol.com. (NMC)

Energy office, CUC tie up for arts festival

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division Office will be collaborating with the Commonwealth Utility Corp. at the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at American Memorial Park.

The Energy Division staff will be distributing applications and assisting individuals who are interested in the Energy

Star Rebate Program and the Residential Weatherization Program. In addition, information on ways to conserve energy will be available.

They will be at the booth with CUC on the following dates and time:

■ Friday, June 10, 2011, from 6pm to 8pm

■ Saturday, June 11, 2011, from 12pm to 6pm

■ Sunday, June 12, 2011, from 12pm to 6pm

Thelma Inos, director of the Energy Division, encourages the community to avail to the program services that are available to help reduce the energy consumptions in the households.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information, contact the Energy Division at telephone nos. 664-4480/1. (PR)

High Court issues procedural ruling in Owens v. CHC

On Wednesday, June 8, 2011 the Commonwealth Supreme Court issued a procedural ruling in *Owens v. Commonwealth Health Center*, interpreting the revised Northern Mariana Islands Supreme Court Rules (effective Jan. 13, 2010).

Plaintiff Alvin Owens appealed a final judgment of the CNMI Superior Court on March 12, 2008. Several days later, the defendant Commonwealth Health Center filed a notice of cross appeal. CHC's initial deadline to file its cross appeal brief was July 8, 2010. CHC asked the Court for an extension

of time to file its brief, and the Supreme Court Clerk of Court granted the extension. CHC's filing deadline was reset to Aug. 9, 2010. CHC did not file its brief by Aug. 9, nor did it ask the Court for another extension. On Aug. 30—21 days after the filing deadline lapsed—CHC filed its cross appeal brief along with a separate motion to file a late brief. The Supreme Court Clerk rejected CHC's motion.

CHC subsequently filed a second motion asking a single justice to review the Clerk's denial, arguing that the Clerk lacked the authority to rule on

its motion. A single justice reviewed CHC's second motion and issued an order on Nov. 1, 2010, upholding the Clerk's denial of CHC's first motion. CHC then filed a third motion asking all three justices to reconsider the second motion.

In considering CHC's third motion, the full Court determined that the Clerk had no authority to deny CHC's first motion once the filing deadline lapsed on Aug. 9. The Court further held that, under the circumstances, all three justices were required to review CHC's first motion.

In weighing the merits of CHC's first motion, the full Court stated that according to the Supreme Court Rules, motions to file late briefs are "highly disfavored" under certain circumstances. As CHC allowed its filing deadline to lapse when it could have asked for another extension of time, the Court held that CHC's first motion was highly disfavored.

The Court noted that the "highly disfavored" standard was added to the Supreme Court Rules in January 2010 and that it was unique to the CNMI.

The Court further held that, generally speaking, the "highly disfavored" standard meant that the Court would not grant motions to file late briefs unless the cause of the late filing was beyond the control of the party asking for more time. The Court found that the assistant attorney general tasked with filing the cross appeal brief had knowingly allowed the filing deadline to lapse. On this ground, the Court determined that CHC could not overcome the "highly disfavored" standard. Accordingly, the Court denied CHC's motion to file a late brief.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Owens v. Commonwealth Health Center*, 2011 MP 6, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_11.htm. (CNMI Judiciary)

Babauta statement on the passing of Luis, Hodge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, issued the following statement on the passing of former governor Juan F. Luis and former lieutenant governor and president of the U.S. Virgin Islands Legislature Derek Hodge, Esq.:

"On behalf of Secretary Salazar and the Department of the Interior, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I

offer my condolences to the family, friends, and the entire Virgin Islands community on the passing of former governor Juan F. Luis and former lieutenant governor and president of the Virgin Islands Legislature Derek Hodge, Esq.

"Governor Luis was a man who stood out in the community for the sacrifices he was willing to make in order that Virgin Is-

landers should have a better life. He did not find comfort in the status quo but had the will to lead the island with vision and foresight.

"Lt. Governor Hodge was a strong advocate for a sustainable and self-sufficient community, and he championed the extension of important federal programs and actions to support this vision. His life in public service has left an indelible mark and helped to ensure

the Virgin Islands is an extraordinary place to live, work and call home.

"They were contemporaries who were divided by political affiliation but who were united in pride and hope for the Virgin Islands and its people. I extend our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Governor Luis and Lt. Governor Hodge," said Babauta. (DOI)



Babauta

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 9, 1999

CNMI to host nurses' conference

Some 100 nurses are expected to arrive here next week to attend the five-day American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council Conference, which will discuss various issues confronting the nursing profession, specifically, providing quality care within limited resources. The conference will be held as the CNMI nurses face the perennial problems of low salary, inadequate number of nursing staff and improvement in the quality of staff. With the theme "Trans-cultural Nursing in the Next Millennium," the 21st annual nursing conference is also expected to tackle the federal programs in the Pacific Basin and cultural competence in the practice.

PSS misses federal grant

The Public School System missed to secure the 21st Century Grant which funding will be used to expand the Lina'la-Malawash Academy and establish community centers on Tinian and Rota. Considered as a long-shot grant, PSS was one of the over 2,000 applicants and only 176 proposals were selected based on its budget for this year. Over 400 panel members were gathered by the US Department of Education to review the proposals submitted. "It's unfortunate but it just shows that PSS is seeking funds from whatever, even if it's a long shot one," said fiscal and budget officer William Matson.

June 9, 2000

PSS makes available technology funds

In efforts to keep up with global trends in advanced technology, the Public School System is striving to upgrade schools through technology literacy funds targeted to increase student achievement and performance. This summer, PSS is still waiting to award up to 79 projects to qualified school applicants. Project funds range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, according to Federal Programs Coordinator Bill Matson. The federal assistance funds is prioritized for schools aiming to gear up for E-rate (education rate) or professional development related to education programs using the computers and the Internet.

'Ice': a worsening problem in the CNMI

The proliferation of illegal substance like methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known on streets as "ice", is fast becoming a major threat to the Northern Marianas, according to an anti-prohibited drug advocate who recently completed a six-day presentation in Palau and the Federates States of Micronesia. Narcotics investigator Lt. Ismael Aguon disclosed the widespread sale of illegal substances like "ice" on the islands has worsened due to the reported increasing number of sources. Prohibited drugs like "ice" were once popularly routed directly or indirectly from the Philippines only but has now been imported from other countries like the mainland China and Taiwan, said Lt. Aguon.

June 9, 2003

CDC: Stricter SARS inspection at NMI seaports

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants stricter implementation of measures at all CNMI seaports against the possible entry of the severe acute respiratory syndrome virus. Visiting CDC deputy chief for health studies Dennis J. Christianson said in a news briefing that he would be working with local authorities in securing all ports in efforts to prevent translocation of the dreaded virus. "I'm here to help in any way I can. The CNMI has been doing great [in terms of SARS monitoring and surveillance]," he said.

'Ulterior motive behind push to increase minimum wage'

The push to increase the minimum wage in the CNMI is propelled not so much by any utopian goal of alleviating the welfare of workers but because of powerful forces within the garment industry in the U.S. mainland that want to wipe out the remaining competitive advantage that local apparel manufacturers enjoy, which is its ability to offer garment products at a lower cost. Economist Dr. Muhammad Ashraf pointed this out, saying that, by increasing the local minimum wage here, it will be the U.S. mainland garment manufacturers who will actually benefit since the garment makers here in the CNMI will be forced to sell their products to mainland buyers at a higher price. At the moment, U.S.-based garment manufacturers are at a competitive disadvantage since they pay higher minimum wages, which means any product they sell will be sold at higher prices.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Oly DL Guerrero! Love you always and forever! You're still the one. Greetings come from Tommy.

Happy birthday, Andrew! Let's celebrate, cheers! Greetings coming from your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy first birthday greetings go out to Danica Krista V. Hermogenes, who celebrated her special day on June 8, 2011! Ever since the day you were born, you've made our world beautiful.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marines favor CNMI for additional 'large unit' firing range

»New contract for environmental impact study expected this summer

By SHARLA TORRE MONTVEL-COHEN
GUAMBUILDUPNEWS.COM

Editor's Note: The following article was originally published by GuamBuildupNews.com on Tuesday, June 7, 2011.

GUAM—The Marines are free to move forward with finding a training location for their "large unit live fire" and "combined arms authority" ranges, according to a top policy planner for the Pacific region.

Plans for live fire training ranges supporting the transfer of at least 8,600 troops to Guam were held up until the release of buildup money for fiscal year 2011, U.S. Marine Corps Pacific policy director Bryan Wood told *GuamBuildupNews.com* in

an April interview. Now that the budget containing \$131 million in military construction money for the Marine relocation is law, "there will likely be an EIS"—environmental impact study—"contract awarded in mid-summer," Wood said.

U.S. Pacific Command has been scouting the Pacific for spots to accommodate both Marine and Navy training needs, he explained. The additional ranges would supplement plans for live fire training in Guam and the nearby island of Tinian, part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

All Marine units require a level of training that integrates ground, aviation, and logistics elements under a common command element in preparation for

large-scale combat. Since this is beyond the level that can be conducted in Guam and on Tinian, the Marines need an additional location for integrated combined-arms maneuver training as well. The Marines also need a beach area for amphibious landing training, and sufficient Special Use Airspace to allow close air support training, according to the FY11 National Defense Authorization Act.

"PACOM"—U.S. Pacific Command—"is reviewing possible training locations for not just the Marine Corps, but also others like the Navy, and other facilities throughout the Pacific Region," Wood said. "The hold up was the FY11 money and they couldn't do anything until the appropriations act was passed."

Aside from \$66 million for the Defense Access Roads project and \$40 million for the second phase of the Apra Harbor Wharf upgrade, the budget approved in April released \$25 million of the money needed for planning and design, he explained.

Before any Marines move to Guam, the "ability to meet training requirements in order to maintain minimal operational/mission effectiveness must be ensured," Wood wrote in a "pre-decisional" Marine planning document obtained by *GuamBuildupNews.com*. "We don't have a location yet for a large unit live fire and combined arms authority—like the kind of combat action you see in a war movie," Wood explained. "We won't be doing this on Guam."

Undersecretary of the Navy Robert Work has proposed a "stacked range option" for the live fire range in Guam in order to enable 24/7 public access to the historic Pagat Village in the area, but this "will result in only 67 percent of USMC training requirements" being met, the document states. "Further studies are required to explore the full potential of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or other locations to support Marine Corps core competencies."

Wood said the next environmental impact study—for a location to accommodate large units and combined arms training—would likely be for a spot in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because "CNMI is the closest to Guam, so its proximity is attractive. And the CNMI has asked us to come there." However, he said, even if a consultant contract for the study is signed this summer, it will still be another one to three years before

the new EIS is complete.

The Guam and Tinian spots identified in the Guam EIS published last July are not sufficient because they only "cover ranges predominately limited to individual and crew served weapons, annual qualification and sustainment requirements," the Marine document states.

Tinian is the Navy's preferred location for four live fire ranges for known distance rifle training, automated combat pistol/military police firearms training, platoon battle course exercises, and field training. The Department of Defense currently leases, for military purposes, two-thirds of the island's northern portion. The island is approximately 100 miles away from the planned Marine base in Guam and provides the best opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability, according to the EIS.

A live fire range for small arms training is proposed for Guam, but the Navy is withholding its final decision to allow time for a historic preservation review process, since the range would be in the vicinity of the historic Pagat Village, south of Andersen Air Force Base along Route

15. The so-called "non-dud producing impact area" is needed to accommodate the Marines' minimum small arms training requirements for individuals.

"Getting land for the [Guam] training range is a congressional condition for more funding," Wood said. The FY11 National Defense Authorization Act recommends deferring construction authorization for "three major [buildup] projects totaling over \$300 million until progress can be shown towards meeting the Marine Corps minimal training requirements," he continued. "As of now, we don't have a decision of where or how to configure training, therefore we don't have an agreement." For this reason, "DoD has not issued a ROD"—record of decision—"on the live fire training range."

Proposed plans for the Guam site involve the Department of Defense acquiring approximately 1,090 acres of land on a plateau in Pagat area, which is adjacent to the proposed site for non-firing training at Andersen South. The plan will take time to materialize as "the Marine Corps requires two full contiguous land parcels," in the area "and acquisition [has been] deferred to FY2013," the Marine document states.



HOUSE VISIT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, right, shakes hands with Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) after also greeting Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), left, before the start of a House session Monday morning, in which Sablan answered members' questions for some two hours on a host of issues that include federal immigration, control over submerged lands and re-enrollment of CNMI government employees in the U.S. Social Security program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB11-OHS/DPS-078 (A)(B)(C)

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 24, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE CNMI'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-DPH-098

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 06, 2011 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ROUTER, ONE (1) WALL MOUNT SERVER ENCLOSURE CABINET, AND ONE (1) UNMANAGED SWITCH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF RFP11-CRM-083

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 23, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE CRM FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING CRM AT (670) 664-8305, OR EMAILING rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 13, 2011.**

PUBLIC LAW 15-95 LOCAL PREFERENCE ACT, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118, DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT.

/s/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR, CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Special** meeting **Friday, June 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. OLD BUSINESS**
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Litigation Update
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Other Related Matters
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the General Public that Ms. Arlene D. Hart is no longer connected with **Ecosure Insurance** effective immediately. Any transaction made by her on behalf of the company from the date of this Notice shall be rendered null and void.

The Management

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 135Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Food pyramid now a food plate. Wow

(c) 2011, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In one of those “if a tree falls in a forest” moments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture last week replaced its much-criticized and widely ignored “food pyramid” with a “food plate” chart.

Soon, all over America, grocery shoppers and restaurant diners will be able to consult a simple (you should pardon the expression) “pie” chart to determine what they should buy.

Look, honey. Don’t eat that big slab of meat. Protein takes up less than a quarter of the chart.

Thanks for telling me, dear. Load up half my plate with fruits and vegetables and load up a quarter of the plate with brown rice. And waiter, take away this red wine and bring me a skim milk.

With due respect to first lady Michelle Obama’s campaign against obesity and to the hard-working USDA nutritionists and graphic designers who spent \$2 million to develop a circle divided into four not-quite-even parts, we doubt that Americans will pay any more attention to the food plate than they did to the food pyramid.

The amazing thing about the food pyramid is the controversy it created in its 20 years as official USDA policy, even though studies indicated most Americans paid no attention to it whatsoever.

Nutritionists criticized the influence of the farm lobbies because the pyramid didn’t distinguish between whole grains (good) and white flour (not so good). The beef industry insisted that the pyramid not discriminate against red meat. Sugared breakfast cereal, high-fat snacks and high-carbohydrate white breads qualified as foundational foods for the pyramid.

But consider: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in 1990, the year before the pyramid debuted, no state in America had an obesity rate higher than 15 percent. By 2009, only Colorado and the District of Columbia had rates lower than 20 percent.

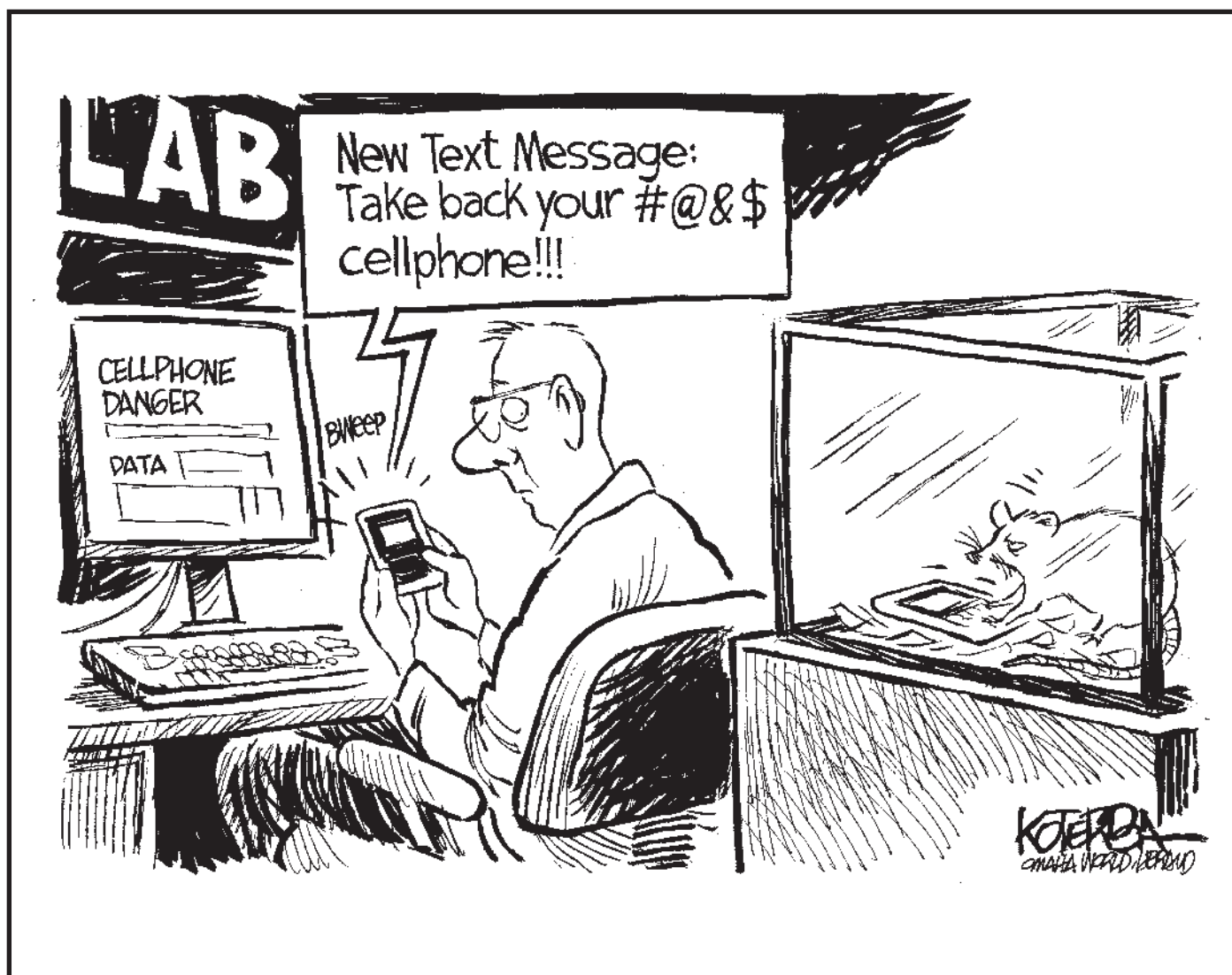
Will the food plate change that? Of course not. It’s intended only as part of a broader public education program. But even that won’t be enough.

Studies show that people make poor food choices because they either (a) don’t care or (b) don’t want to go to the trouble of preparing better meals or (c) can’t afford the heavy load of fresh fruits and vegetables that nutritionists recommend. If there’s a category (d)—people who don’t know the difference—it’s very small.

Indeed, a 2009 study led by a Duke University researcher suggested that providing healthy options might even backfire. “We find that simply seeing, and perhaps briefly considering, the healthy option fulfills their need to make healthy choices, freeing the person to give in to temptation and make an unhealthy choice,” reported Gavan Fitzsimons of Duke’s Fuqua School of Business.

Since the mid-1950s, America has managed to cut cigarette smoking rates from 45 percent to about 20 percent with a combination of public education, advertising controls, high taxation and legal limits on where people could smoke. That’s what it would take to control obesity, too.

The food and farm lobbies wouldn’t stand for that, and our guess is that most Americans wouldn’t either. We’re left with a \$2 million pie chart and our self-control, or lack thereof.



And the Weiner is...

Rep. Anthony Weiner of NYC’s Brooklyn and the Queens was literally caught with his pants off. Or, more precisely, he had a nasty habit of taking cellphone shots of his physicality and twittering it to cyber-playmates.

Focus on physicality is a strong undercurrent of our communal jitters. Sharing a picture of a boner inside one’s briefs is deemed a yukky exercise in many sectors, at best left to an exhibitionist flasher. The “F” word remains a no-no in print media, though it has started slipping through censors’ bleeps on TV lately as more celebs casually use a word liberally used and nonchalantly familiar in urban centers and rap sheets!

I was once written up in one of the schools where I taught because I used the f-word three times in class in the course of a year, duly warned the first time that three strikes would entail a supervisory note of reprobation. A co-teacher down the hall encouraged our students to report to her of events in my class, and sure enough, 30 minutes after this third incident, the principal’s office heard of it and immediately called for a pow-wow.

“I know you had pedagogical reasons for the two occurrences, and we did ask that you refrain from using the word a third time, but it looks like you slipped again,” my supervisor said. “Just for the record,” I said, “I used the word on a boy who verbally bullies his peers all the time if he is not within the teacher’s hearing, only this time, he used it while he had his back to me, oblivious of my presence, so I used the word on him in return, and immediately asked what he felt when someone called him the f-word.” But rules are rules, I was graciously informed, thus the record of reproach.

The f-word is hardly used to mean the physical activity it once referred to but no matter. The issue is not the word but the power play that it entails. Allowing it in print, I was told, would result in the domino effect of the collapse of the social order. Ah, the old domino effect rationale, we first encountered during the Vietnam War, and still prevalent in Philippine family planning debates! The teacher concerned about my vocabulary has a repertoire of words saltier than a regular salt, but to her credit, she refrains using the f-word audibly on the children, though she does so under her breath.

In the late ’60s, novelist Philip Roth published *Portnoy’s Complaint*, which opened the floodgates to psychoanalysis, liberating many from the shackles of Puritan injunction on the practice and mention of masturbation. The sexual revolution was in full flowering then and life in the flesh even invaded the then “spiritualized” altar of the Eucharist.

I had male cousins a year or so older than I was, and each time we shared a shower, I would notice how behind I was in the development of my physique. Though intellectually enlightened about this matter, I must have subconsciously retained an inferiority complex that I was accused of perennially trying to overcome, being preda-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



tory to the female of the specie, on hindsight not an altogether inaccurate accusation.

While on Saipan, I was involved in protecting turtle nests and downloaded a screen saver of a baby turtle flapping underwater. In my limited Putunghua, I called it my *xiao wu gui*, the amiable little turtle, not knowing that the term is also a euphemism for an amusing (sometimes delightful) small wiener! The risqué connotation has gained me not a few giggles from my students who happen to hear me call the image on my laptop’s screen saver.

What consenting adults do in the privacy of their bedrooms is a protected right, and perhaps, the congressman thought that the social network “privacy” provision protected him from doing what little children do when they engage in “I’ll-show-you-mine-if-you’ll-show-me-yours” games under the dining table. Nope.

A few years back, I sent my family’s YahooGroup.com website a reflective letter on my birthday, sharing it for the immediate family’s consumption. A year later, a dear friend found her name mentioned in my reflection, which she accessed with a few strokes on Google. The letter was in the public domain. Happily, she was mentioned in an acceptable light so the adverse repercussion was minimal. She advised that she would appreciate a word of alert the next time I mention her.

The irony is that Anthony Weiner is known as an accomplished techie in Congress, famously so that he is even being considered as the Dem’s standard bearer to replace Bloomberg at City Hall, not unlike IMF’s ex-manager Strauss-Kahn (who himself was allegedly running around without his pants chasing the chamber maid at an expensive NYC Time Square hotel) and French President Sarkozy.

“Penis” (pronounced ‘pee-nush’ rather than the U.S. coin in ESL classes) is suddenly an acceptable word in news headlines, its mention no longer “punishable” among respectable circles, and we have Weiner’s wienie to thank for. Lends a new meaning to hollering for a “hot dog” at the next BBQ. I’ll stick to my *xiao wu gui* (pronounced ‘shiao ug ghoe’) and expect the newly liberated Li Na’s giggles (from the constraints of the puritanical revolution on the tail end of the Helmsman’s watch) at SAU of the Middle Realm.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why will the BizGrowth Challenge be different?

Over the past couple of weeks I've met with numerous people to share the BizGrowth CHALLENGE. Its mission is to improve the local economy and quality of life in the CNMI by working collaboratively with organizations and experts to provide businesses with affordable resources to effectively achieve sustainable growth. Most of the responses have been very positive about the concept; however, the question that keeps popping up, and I believe is on the top of most individuals' minds is: "How will this be different from the other conferences, forums, or other events held in the past?"

Previous events have produced some great ideas, created vision statements, and even developed some written plans in an attempt to encourage greater investment, bring in new businesses, and improve tourism with the end goal to improve the local economy. I've been to plenty of them, just like you. They're exciting, fun, and energizing; however, after the free lunches are eaten, the lights are turned out in the meeting hall, and the off-island experts and speakers have flown back home, the big question is: "What do we have to show for it?"

This is a legitimate question that shows people are tired of NATO (which is a term I was told that the Governor likes to use), which aptly describes the main frustration most people have after attending another conference or forum. It stands for No Action, Talk Only! How true, and I think a lot of people are tired of the talk and want not only action, but accountability and results as our economy continues to slide down a slippery slope.

Therefore, to briefly answer the question about why I believe the CHALLENGE will be different, I've dubbed another acronym called MALT: More Action, Less Talk. You see, the Launch Symposium is only the beginning, because there is much more that will be happening throughout the entire 12 weeks of the CHALLENGE.

My goal is for the CHALLENGE to be something that motivates people to make a plan and take decisive action that produces results by connecting people with resources that can move them to the next stage of growth. In order to accomplish this, I've collaborated with some of Saipan's best business people and reviewed my work

with hundreds of businesses to examine those activities that offer the highest return for the least investment of time and money. What follows are only a few of the many benefits you can expect as a participant throughout the CHALLENGE:

BizGrowth CHALLENGE Launch Symposium: There will be two days of training, with the first on Wed., June 22nd devoted to helping new businesses get started and farmers to become more successful. The Launch on Thur., June 23rd is devoted to existing businesses, with a lot of hands-on activities and training sessions to reduce costs, market more effectively, improve customer service, discover additional sources of capital, tap into grants for businesses, etc. This is also where the first of several Challenges will be issued.

Strategic Growth Plan: You'll receive a detailed document to help create a succinct, one-page growth plan to keep you focused on high-leverage activities that will let you achieve your goals in the shortest time possible.

Customer Service: You'll receive articles, reports, worksheets, checklists and training to develop better customer service skills that can make the difference in whether someone buys and returns to your business.

Listing in an Online Directory: This will allow you to be found on the Internet and you can change pictures and text at any time. In addition, you can get valuable customer feedback from a rating and comment section. For an example, go to SaipanBestLiving.com and view MEGabyte's site by clicking on "Computer Sales & Repair" under the Resource Directory.

Mastermind Teams: This is one of the big secrets of the super-successful. They have mastermind teams that allow them to generate great ideas and get the support they need to see those ideas through to completion. You'll learn how to create your own team, even if it's just with your employees.

Barter Network: Learn how to save your valuable cash by bartering your assets with other businesses willing to trade for their goods and services.

Outsourcing Network: This concept is based on hiring individuals who obtain a business license on a project basis, instead of

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rik is the creator of the BizGrowth Challenge that assists businesses to achieve sustainable growth. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

having to hire more full- or part-time employees. This depends on having a list of individuals who can get a business license and are willing to work on a project basis, and we'll invite people to get their business license at the Wednesday Symposium.

Publicity & Recognition: During the CHALLENGE there will be lots of media coverage and some other ideas we are putting together that will make the event fun and entertaining. Your business will receive greater exposure throughout the event. As the different challenges are announced and completed, the top businesses will be recognized, and at the end of the 12 weeks the top businesses in different categories will be announced.

As you can see, the BizGrowth Launch Symposium is only the beginning of the support and activities that are designed to help grow the economy by assisting local companies to grow their businesses. If you would like to learn more about the CHALLENGE, or register and get the Strategic Growth Plan right away, as well as have your business listed on the online directory, go to SaipanBestLiving.com or email me at RikVillegas@gmail.com. My ultimate desire is that many great things will come from this CHALLENGE. There are already some exciting announcements that will be made at the Launch Symposium, and I'm sure there will be more positive news and announcements while it is underway. I believe the BizGrowth CHALLENGE can be the catalyst to improve the economy as participants start to turn things around for their businesses, and provide the momentum and motivation to turn around the entire CNMI economy.

Asserting our ownership

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of a privilege speech the author delivered on the floor of the House of Representatives chamber on Monday, June 6, 2011.

Our rights as indigenous peoples of the Northern Mariana Islands, guaranteed under the Covenant that established our political relationship with the United States of America, are slowly being chipped away right before our very eyes. If we do nothing about it, we stand to lose all that we have hoped and worked very hard for in our quest to become self-governing and self-sufficient. What is left is a Covenant with no protections for the people whose lands and resources the U.S. deemed strategically valuable.

Since the inception of the Commonwealth, it is no secret that the United States government has taken unilateral positions that promote their interests in the Commonwealth, first and foremost. That, in my opinion, has violated the spirit and intent of the Covenant. Such actions by the United States were made without proper consultation with our government and people. One shining example is the presidential proclamation signed in 2009 that established the National Marine Monument within the waters and submerged lands of the Northern Marianas. With just a stroke of his pen, President Bush laid claim to thousands of miles of our water, our submerged lands, and our resources. When Pew Charitable Trusts first proposed the marine monument idea to the governor in 2007, his response was that the administration was not prepared to embrace this proposal, stating that: "Given our valuable natural resources and their potential uses, the CNMI government must fully consider all options and decide carefully, prudently and strategically balancing economic, environmental, social, cultural, and other considerations, in deference to our local constituents and stakeholders."

In Senate Joint Resolution 16-04, signed by then Senate President Pete Reyes and then Speaker Arnold Palacios, the 16th Commonwealth Legislature respectfully requested that the President of the U.S. refrain from *unilaterally* creating a marine monument *without the consent of the local government*. Not only did the mayors come out against the monument, but also many of our indigenous citizens

and community leaders. Clearly, our people's and leaders' opposition did not matter, as we are all aware of what happened to 95,000 square miles of our waters and submerged lands.

When former president Bush designated the Marianas Trench, Rose Atoll and Pacific Remote Islands Monuments in 2009, was this designation really about conservation? What about the hard minerals geologists identified in the seabeds around both the Marianas Trench and Rose Atoll National Monuments? Minerals like phosphorite, abyssal manganese, ferromanganese, cobalt, sulfide, olivine, feldspar, clinopyroxene, opaline, silica, and pyrite as well as hydrathermal deposits of gold and silver and the world's richest deposits of barite. Could it be true what they are saying that under the seabeds in the Pacific Remote Islands Monument is the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves?

All of this begs the question: What is it that our submerged lands and waters contain that we are cognizant of? Are there other resources of which we are not aware? When the presidential proclamation states that the submerged volcanic areas of the Mariana Ridge, the coral reef ecosystems of the waters surrounding the islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion and the Mariana Trench contain objects of scientific interest, shouldn't we have that right to explore, discover, claim and make use of these objects as we see fit, for the betterment of our people and our island communities? It seems to me that we have an abundance of resources, except that we are being denied the right to these resources.

My fellow colleagues, as I sit here discussing with you the rightful ownership of our submerged lands and underwater resources, a three-day workshop has kicked off. Beginning today, in Nadi, Fiji, some of the world's leading specialists on issues relating to deep sea minerals have gathered. The South Pacific Commission's Deep Sea Minerals Project will address legislative, regulatory, capacity requirements and environmental issues pertaining to deep sea minerals and mining for countries in the Pacific region over a four-year period. According to the Deep Sea Minerals Project Team Leader, "This project is focused on ensuring that sustainable seabed mineral resources management would bring tangible benefits to Pacific Island countries and

By **FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Felicidad T. Ogumoro is the Vice Speaker of the House of Representative in the 17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

their people." Which Pacific island countries are participating? The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Essentially all of our neighbors except us. Why? Because according to the federal government, we do not own our resources. The action and decision rendered by the U.S. makes claim to our most valuable underwater treasures and resources. It is an act of supremacy of which the United States government demonstrated its lack of commitment to honor and respect the mandates and the spirit of the Covenant.

The submerged lands and the waters adjacent to our islands *belong to our people*. As descendants of Chamorro and Refaluwasch seafaring voyagers, the waters surrounding our islands have sustained us and have always been a significant part of our culture, our way of life.






Today, with the introduction of a House joint resolution, we begin the first important step in our quest to win back for our people, the respect, rights and ownership of the submerged lands and waters adjacent to our islands in the Northern Marianas. As the elected leaders of our people, I ask that we stand firmly together in unity and support the passage of this House joint resolution, with the hope that the U. S. Congress will act in accordance with the Covenant and respect and honor our request. As leaders of our islands, it is imperative that we assert our ownership over our waters, our submerged lands, and our resources.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77

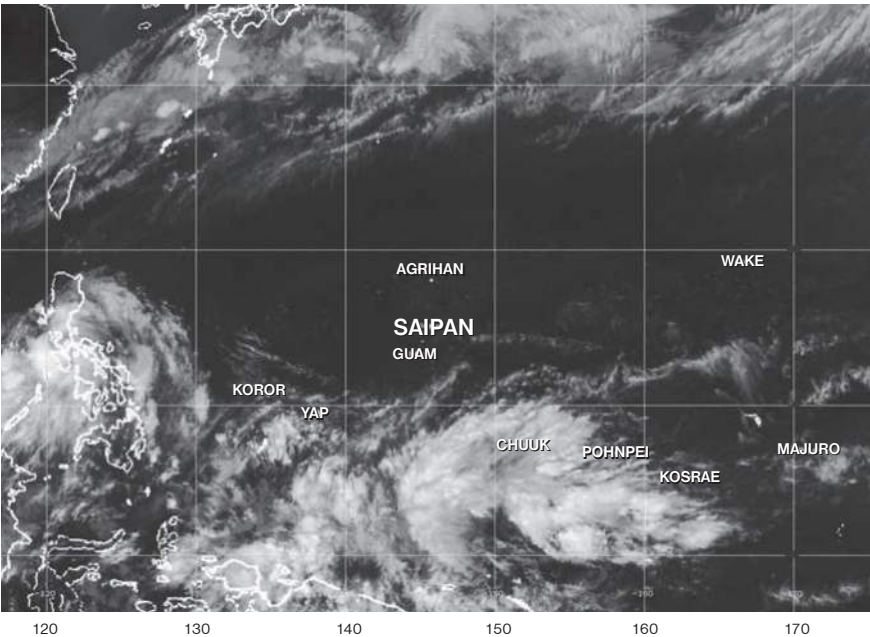
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61 ▼57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94 ▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲56 ▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲96 ▼77
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼67
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲74 ▼67
Rome	Showers	▲78 ▼61
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲78 ▼62
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲97 ▼76

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from 7N130E southeastward to 1N139E and another trough extends from 1N146E northeastward to near 5N150E. Widespread cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with these features are found south of a line from 8N133E to 6N140E to 10N152E to 10N157E including Palau and Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Kosrae between 1N and 4N from 157E to 163E and southeast of Majuro between 4N and 6N from 172E to 177E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:17 PM
Friday	1:14 PM 12:37 AM
Saturday	2:12 PM 1:21 AM
Sunday	3:12 PM 2:08 AM
Monday	4:13 PM 2:58 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
0Z604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

WHO says Europe E. coli is new, but CDC not sure

LONDON (AP)—A super-toxic bug is causing the frightening food poisoning outbreak in Europe that has sickened at least 1,600 people and killed 18, researchers and global health officials said Thursday.

The new E. coli strain that is believed to have contaminated

salad vegetables was analyzed by Chinese and German scientists. It contains several genes that cause antibiotic resistance and is similar to a strain that causes serious diarrhea and is found in the Central African Republic, according to a statement from the Shenzhen, China-

based laboratory, BGI. Those scientists were working together with the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

"This is a unique strain that has never been isolated from patients before," Hilde Kruse, a food safety expert at the World Health Organization,

told The Associated Press. The new strain has "various characteristics that make it more virulent and toxin-producing" than the many E. coli strains people naturally carry in their intestines.

Preliminary genetic sequencing suggests the strain is a never before seen combination of two different E. coli bacteria, with aggressive genes that could explain why the outbreak appears to be so massive and dangerous,

the agency said.

However, Dr. Robert Tauxe, a foodborne disease expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, questioned whether the strain is entirely new and said it had previously caused a single case in Korea. He said genetic fingerprints may vary a little but that "this strain is rare enough that a lot of people haven't heard of it."

Researchers have so far been unable to pinpoint the food source of the illness, which has now spread to at least 10 European countries and fanned uncertainty about eating tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce. The germ has caused 499 to develop a kidney failure complication. Germany is hardest hit.

Fearful of the outbreak spreading east to Russia, the country extended a ban on vegetables to the entire European Union from just Germany and Spain, a move the bloc quickly called disproportionate.

Kruse said it's not uncommon for bacteria to continually mutate, evolving and swapping genes. It is difficult to explain where the new strain came from, she said, but strains of bacteria from both humans and animals easily trade genes, similar to how animal viruses like Ebola sometimes jump into humans.



Chief of the laboratory in research into the Escherichia Coli bacterium at the Brno research institute Pavel Alexa, left, and his assistant Gabriela Glocknerova, right, take samples from a cucumber for a molecular biological test in Brno, Czech Republic, Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

Obama expresses concern about slowing economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—With few options at hand and his poll numbers sagging, President Barack Obama expressed concern Tuesday about the sudden slowdown in the economy but said he is not worried about a second recession and the nation should "not panic."

The president spoke about the new economic trouble in detail for the first time since a report late last week showed job growth had slowed sharply in May. He tried to reassure Americans worried about high unemployment and expensive gas that the nation is on a slow, if not steady, path to recovery.

"I am concerned about the fact that the recovery that we're on is not producing jobs as quickly as I want it to happen," Obama said at an appearance with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "We don't yet know whether this is a one-month episode or a longer trend."

Either way, there appears to be little Washington can do about it.

Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke, speaking in Atlanta

on Tuesday, acknowledged the economy has lost momentum but said nothing to suggest the Fed was about to take any bold new action to further shore it up.

And with lawmakers fighting over the nation's budget deficit and long-term debt, there is no political appetite for a second major federal stimulus bill like the one passed by Congress in 2009.

At the same time, the president is confronted with a slate of figures presenting challenges to both the economic recovery and his own re-election prospects. Just as the field of Republican challengers begins to take shape, a Washington Post-ABC News survey found that public disapproval of Obama's handling of the economy has reached a record high, 59 percent.

The poll found that Obama and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney are tied among all Americans in a hypothetical race for president. It gave Romney a slight edge, less than the

margin of error, among registered voters.

Seventeen months before the election, unemployment is 9.1 percent. When Obama took office, it was 7.8 percent. Most economists think the rate will be above 8 percent at election time next year. Since World War II, no president has been re-elected with unemployment higher than 7.2 percent.

The day brought the latest in a stream of downbeat economic news, a government report that

said businesses advertised fewer job openings in April than in March. There were 4.6 unemployed people, on average, for each available job in April. In a healthy economy, the ratio is more like 2-to-1.

Even if all the open positions were filled, 10.7 million people would still be unemployed. That compares with 7.7 million who were unemployed when the recession began in December 2007. The recession ended in June 2009.



Obama

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CDC: Food poisoning from salmonella up in US

ATLANTA (AP)—More Americans got food poisoning last year, with salmonella cases driving the increase, the government reported Tuesday. Illness rates for the most common serious type of E. coli fell last year. There was a rise in cases caused by other strains of the bacteria, although that bump may just reflect more testing was done for them, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. An unusually aggressive strain of E. coli is behind the current large outbreak of food poisoning in Europe, mostly in Germany. That strain has never caused an outbreak in the U.S. The CDC estimates that 50 million Americans each year get sick from foodborne illnesses, including about 3,000 who die.

Australia suspends live cattle trade to Indonesia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia has suspended its \$350 million a year live cattle trade with Indonesia for up to six months due to cruelty concerns, the government said Wednesday as a

key political party called for a permanent ban on such exports to any country. The ban follows a public outcry over gruesome images broadcast on Australian television last week of Indonesian slaughterhouses where cattle were beaten and took minutes to bleed to death as their throats were repeatedly slashed. The doomed animals stood shaking in fear as cattle were skinned before their eyes.

China plans restructure of rare earths industry

SHANGHAI (AP)—China is giving its biggest, state-owned rare earths miner and producer a monopoly for the northern part of the country in reforms aimed at bringing the strategically important sector that's crucial to advanced manufacturing under tighter control. The Ministry for Industry and Information Technology said in a statement seen Wednesday on its website that Inner Mongolia Baotou Steel Rare-Earth (Group) Hi-Tech Co., Ltd. will be the only rare earths producer in the region - China's biggest production base for the exotic metals.

Bernanke: Economy slowing but faster growth ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy has weakened in recent weeks, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke noted Tuesday. But he stuck with a message he's delivered since April: The slowdown from high gas prices and Japan's crises is temporary, and growth should pick up later this year.

Bernanke made no mention of any new steps the Fed might take to boost the economy. The Fed's \$600 billion Treasury bond-buying program is ending this month. The program was intended to keep interest rates low to strengthen the economy. But critics said it raised the risk of high inflation.

The Fed chairman said the economy still needs the benefit of low interest rates. The Fed is scheduled to meet in two weeks and is all but certain to keep those rates at record lows.

Stocks fell after Bernanke began speaking. The Dow Jones industrial average erased gains made earlier in the day and

closed down for the fifth straight day, as did broader indexes.

"The market was disappointed," said David Jones, head of DMJ Economic Advisors, a private consulting firm. "Wall Street investors were hoping for the promise of another round of credit easing, and they didn't get it."

Bernanke noted the May jobs report released last week was a setback. It showed the unemployment rate ticked up to 9.1 percent and the economy added just 54,000 jobs, the fewest in eight months. But he said he expected job creation and overall economic growth to rebound in coming months.

"The economic recovery appears to be continuing at a moderate pace, albeit at a rate that is both uneven across sectors and frustratingly slow from the perspective of millions of unemployed and underemployed workers," he said at a banking conference in Atlanta.

Bernanke said the central

bank would not consider the recovery well-established "until we see a sustained period of stronger job creation."

He repeated a pledge that central bank officials have been making for more than two years: that they will keep interest rates at record lows "for an extended period."

Bernanke said that consumer inflation has jumped 3.5 percent in the six months ending in April—well above the average of less than 1 percent over the preceding two years. But he noted that most of the increase had been caused by higher gas prices, which have been creeping down in recent weeks. Excluding food and energy, inflation has been tame, he noted.

He also noted that supply disruptions stemming from the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan have hampered growth in the April-June quarter. But he said the effect on manufacturing output will likely ease in the coming months.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,070.81
-19.15
-0.16%

S&P
1,284.94
0.00
0.00%

NASDAQ
2,701.56
-1.00
-0.04%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9343
British Pound	0.6091
Canadian Dollar	0.9762
Chinese Yuan	6.4814
Euro	0.6824

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7789	Philippine Peso	43.185
Indian Rupee	44.6762	Singapore Dollar	1.2278
Indonesian Rupiah	8513.25	South Korean Won	1082.05
Japanese Yen	80.2235	Swiss Franc	0.835
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0075	Taiwan Dollar	28.696
New Zealand Dollar	1.2174	Thailand Baht	30.275

Nation

Weiner draws no defense from Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fellow Democrats pointedly refused to defend Rep. Anthony Weiner on Tuesday, telegraphing an unmistakable eagerness for him to resign after he admitted sending a lewd photo of himself to a woman via Twitter and lying about it.

Republicans swiftly sought political profit from the New York Democrat’s predicament, which threatened to deepen when conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart said he had a sexually explicit photo of the 46-year-old congressman.

His political career in extreme jeopardy, Weiner had no public appearances. His spokesman did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

On Monday, after days of denials, the New York lawmaker admitted he had engaged in “several inappropriate conversations conducted over Twitter, Facebook, email and occasionally on the phone with women I had met online.”

Alternately apologetic and defiant, he said he neither met nor had physical relationships with any of them, and added, “I am not resigning.”

In fact, there is little that party leaders can do to force an errant lawmaker to quit, although House Republicans have moved decisively in the past year to purge their ranks of two men who wound up in embarrassing situations.

Most Democrats maintained an uncomfortable silence about Weiner’s future, part of what several senior congressional officials described as a hope that over a few days, Weiner would reconsider his refusal to resign. If not, several noted pointedly, his district might be eliminated when lines are adjusted before the 2012 elections to account for a population shift that will cost New York two House seats.









But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid broke the silence.

“I wish there were some way that I can defend him, but I can’t,” the Nevada Democrat told reporters. Asked what he would do if Weiner called for advice, he replied he would tell him “call somebody else.”

Republicans sought political gain. “Congressman Weiner’s actions and deception are unacceptable and he should resign,” GOP chairman Reince

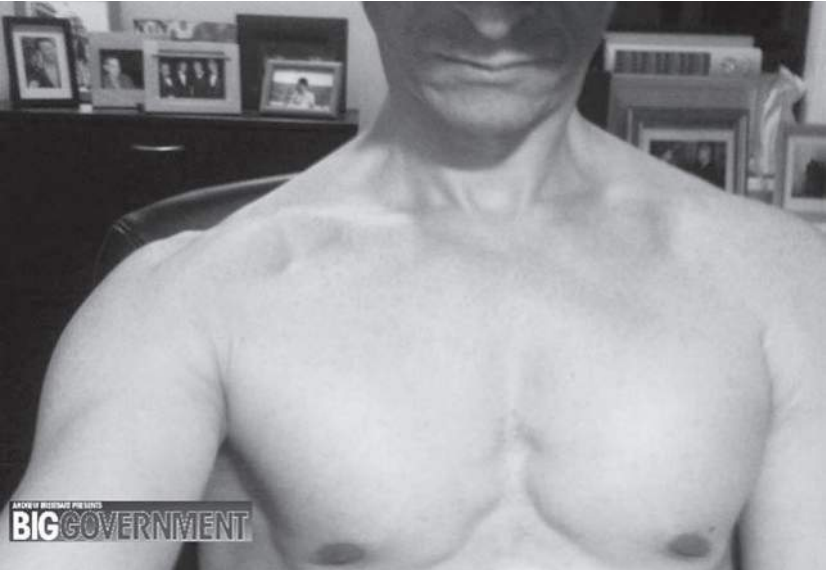
Political sex scandals

Rep. Anthony Weiner’s recent admission of lying about tweeting out some embarrassing photos has landed him in the political sex scandal hall of fame. A look at some of the biggest, recent U.S. political sex scandals:

										
	<i>Former President Bill Clinton, D</i>	<i>Former N.J. Gov. Jim McGreevey, D</i>	<i>Sen. David Vitter, R-La.</i>	<i>Former Sen. Larry Craig R-Idaho</i>	<i>Former N.Y. Gov. Eliot Spitzer, D</i>	<i>Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C.</i>	<i>Former Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.</i>	<i>Former S.C. Gov. Mark Sanford, R</i>	<i>Former Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R</i>	<i>Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y.</i>
When	Jan. 1998	Aug. 2004	July 2007	June 2007	March 2008	Aug. 2008	June 2009	June 2009	May 2011	June 2011
Infidelity	18-month affair with White House intern, Monica Lewinsky	Affair with Golan Cipel, a man who had served as an aide	Phone number appeared in the records of a high-end Washington prostitution ring	Arrested in a airport men's room; police said he tapped his foot to signal interest in sexual activity	Caught on a federal wiretap arranging to meet a high-priced call girl	Affair with former campaign videographer Rielle Hunter; denied fathering her child	Affair with Cindy Hampton, a former aide	Affair with Maria Belen Chapur, a woman living in Argentina he called his "soul mate"	Confessed to fathering a child more than 14 years ago with an employee in his household	Accused of sending a lewd photo of himself through Twitter; said his account had been hacked
Making it worse	First denied the allegations, then admitted he and Lewinsky has'd an "inappropriate relationship"	Cipel denied the affair, saying he had been sexually harassed	Had long championed "family values," morality and ethics	Police said he handed his business card to the arresting officer and asked, "What do you think of that?"	Signed a law raising the penalties for patronizing prostitutes	Campaign aids claimed to be the father; Edwards admitted to fathering child in 2010; separated from wife who later died from breast cancer	Hampton was married to a staffer in the senator's office and a close family friend	Disappeared after telling staff he was hiking on the Appalachian Trail; really visiting Chapur in Argentina	Child born within days of Schwarzenegger's youngest child with wife Maria Shriver	Denied sending photo for several days; later admitted to having online relationships with at least a half-dozen women
Lost	Impeached by house on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice, acquitted by Senate	Resigned as governor; wife divorced him and later wrote a memoir	Seemingly nothing; refused to relinquish Senate seat, remains married	Decided not to run for another Senate term and left office in January 2009	Resigned as governor	Failed presidential nomination; accused of using campaign funds to cover up affair	Resigned in May 2011 to avoid ethics investigation	Remained in office amid calls for resignation, fought impeachment; did not seek re-election	Allegations of falsified birth certificate, a serious crime in California	Nothing yet, refuses to resign; House Ethics Committee may investigate to determine if House rules were broken
Update	Bill stayed in office; Hillary won a Senate seat, lost a presidential nomination, now secretary of state	McGreevey enrolled in divinity school at General Theological Seminary in New York	Re-elected in 2010 with about 57 percent of the total votes	Craig started a consulting group with his former chief of staff and is working on a book	Hosts CNN's round-table discussions show "In the Arena"	Indicted on six felony charges; if convicted faces up to 30 years in prison, \$1.5 million fine	Senate Ethics Committee found credible evidence Ensign broke federal laws to cover up affair	Censured over affair because of misuse of state travel funds; wife filed for divorce	Separated from wife of more than 25 years; potential to hurt restarting movie career	Says he and his wife remain committed to each other

Source: Chicago Tribune, Reuters, MCT Photo Service

© 2011 MCT



This undated photo taken from the website BigGovernment.com, run by conservative activist Andrew Breitbart, purports to show Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., shirtless.

Priebus said in a written statement. “We do not need an investigation to know he lied and acted inappropriately, we need a resignation,” he said, referring to a request from House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi for the House eth-

ics committee to investigate the case.

Leaders of the House Ethics Committee on Tuesday issued their first statement about Weiner, but did not announce an investigation is under way.

“If and when an investigation is appropriate in any matter, the committee will carry out its responsibilities pursuant to our rules and with the utmost integrity and fairness. Pursuant to our rules of confidentiality, we will not have any further comment at this time,” said Chairman Jo Bonner, R-Ala., and ranking Democrat Linda Sanchez of California..

Speaking of Pelosi and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, the Democratic party chairwoman, Priebus said they either “believe members of Congress are held to a different set of standards or they believe these actions demand his resignation.”

Brad Woodhouse, a Democratic National Committee spokesman, referred a request for a comment to Wasserman Schultz’s House office. He said

the issue was a congressional one, but her spokesman declined comment on whether Weiner should resign.

Separately, the Republican House and Senate campaign organizations called on Democrats to return donations Weiner had made to them.

“Does ... Democrat Senate candidate Joe Donnelly, (D-IN) plan to return the \$5,000 he took from his friend Weiner in order to fund his political campaigns?” asked the National Republican Senatorial Committee. There was no immediate reply from Donnelly, a second-term House member who recently announced he would run for the Senate in 2012.

In the House, Democratic Rep. Betty Sutton of Ohio said through an aide she would donate to charity a \$1,000 contribution she received from Weiner last year.

Demanding the return of cash from troubled donors has become a standard political tactic in recent years, practiced by both parties.

Thousands ordered out of Ariz. town as fire nears

SPRINGERVILLE, Ariz. (AP)—Flames from a mammoth forest fire licked the ridges surrounding the eastern Arizona town of Eagar on Tuesday afternoon, forcing the evacuation of about half the 4,000 residents as surrounding towns also prepared to empty.

People started streaming out of Eagar as sheriff’s deputies and police officers directed traffic. Flames were spotted on a ridge on the southeastern side of nearby Springerville and columns of orange smoke rose from the hills. Ash rained from the sky, which was filled with thick smoke, and when the sun peeked through, it was blood-red.

Angie Colwell, her husband Mike and their two children were loading up their belongings as authorities ordered their Eagar neighborhood to evacuate.

“We love the mountains and we’re just afraid of what’s going to be left after the fire comes through,” the long-

time resident said.

The blaze has burned 486 square miles of ponderosa pine forest, driven by wind gusts of more than 60 mph since it was sparked May 29 by what authorities believe was an unattended campfire. On Tuesday, it became the second-largest fire in Arizona history.

No serious injuries have been reported, but the fire has destroyed 10 structures so far. It has cast smoke as far east as Iowa and forced some planes to divert from Albuquerque, N.M., some 200 miles away.

Joe Reinarz, commander of a firefighting team battling the so-called Wallow fire, told residents Tuesday night that the fire was within two miles of Springerville and Eagar. He said the blaze had skirted around Greer because crews were able to keep it out of the canyons surrounding the small resort town.

Reinarz said several structures had

burned in the Alpine and Nutrioso areas but he couldn’t provide specifics.

Crews were doing back burns Tuesday night and trying to build dozer lines around Eagar and Springerville to keep the flames away as law enforcement officers patrolled the evacuated areas.

The Apache County sheriff’s office issued the evacuation order for areas south of state Route 260 and east of Greer just before 4 p.m. The highway will be closed after the evacuation is complete.

Eagar has about 4,000 residents, while Springerville has another 2,000. In all, about 7,000 people have been ordered to prepare for evacuation in recent days.

Several tiny resort towns in the nearby Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest were evacuated earlier. Winds whipping the fire Monday drove the last holdouts from Greer.

No bodies found in Texas home after psychic tip

HARDIN, Texas (AP)—Deputies who swarmed a rural Texas neighborhood Tuesday to search a farmhouse where a person claiming to be a psychic told officials multiple bodies were buried found no evidence of even a single homicide, a sheriff’s official says.

Liberty County Sheriff’s Capt. Rex Evans said there was no indication of bodies being anywhere on the property about 70 miles northeast of Houston. Officials ended their search Tuesday night and went home, with the focus of the investigation now turning to the tipster who led local law enforcement and FBI agents to the home.

The sheriff’s office had received two calls from the person, officials said. Evans said authorities took the tip seriously in part because the caller

had details about the interior of the house that only someone who had seen it could have known.

He said authorities were working to track down the tipster and determine how she had such detailed information on the house. He said authorities had a name and number for the woman.

Asked if authorities thought the tip was a hoax, Evans said only that they found no bodies or anything to indicate a homicide had occurred there.

“We are going to continue our investigation and find out how this individual had this information in the first place,” Evans said.

He said no decision would be made on charges until the caller could be questioned and the district attorney consulted.

Asia

Philippines freezes \$23M tied to massacre suspects

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court Tuesday froze \$23 million in bank accounts and assets linked to suspects in the 2009 politically motivated massacre of at least 57 people.

The Court of Appeals order targets the assets of the Ampatuans, one of the Philippines' wealthiest and most influential families whose most senior members are on trial for multiple murder.

Since the killings, the Ampatuans have come under scrutiny for corruption and using their power as elected representatives to amass wealth illegally.

The principal suspect, former town mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., is accused of leading about 150 gunmen with his father's approval in stopping an election caravan and mowing down the family and supporters of a political rival. Most of the victims were women and included at least 31 journalists and their staff, the single worst killing of media workers in the world.

A total of 196 people have been charged with multiple murder, 90 of whom are in custody, and 58 have been arraigned. More than 50 others are still at large.

Andal Ampatuan and his father, former provincial governor Andal Ampatuan Sr., have pleaded not guilty. About a dozen family members have been charged.

Until they were arrested 18 months ago, the Ampatuans held key posts in



Relatives of the victims of the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines, stand to take a glimpse of Andal Ampatuan Sr. (unseen), the patriarch of the powerful Ampatuan clan, during his arraignment Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at suburban Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines.

an autonomous Muslim region in the southern Philippines and named towns after their relatives. They ruled virtually unopposed for about a decade and delivered the votes for their ally, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and her candidates in national elections.

The court said in Tuesday's ruling that the 1 billion peso (\$23 million) includes the assets of the Ampatuans in several government agencies, banking institutions and other entities that are believed to have been used in amassing ill-gotten wealth.

The Anti-Money Laundry Council cited a report by the government's anti-graft prosecutor saying that Ampatuan Sr. allegedly failed to declare about 90 million pesos (\$2 million) in his statement of assets and liabilities.

According to the council, he owns 27 houses and 91 vehicles and failed to declare the true value of the assets.

Unless frozen, "the funds in the subject accounts will certainly be withdrawn and the other identified properties disposed of, thereby placing them beyond the reach of the law," the court said.

Based on estimates from the council, the petitioner in the case, the Ampatuan funds "may not be considered valid and legitimate as these were supported by documents considered as spurious."

The court order covers the assets of 28 Ampatuan family members.

Floods kill 21, leave 37 missing in China

BEIJING (AP)—Rain-triggered floods in southwestern China have killed 21 people and left 37 others missing while damaging roads, bridges and thousands of homes, officials said Tuesday.

The 21 deaths were reported in Guizhou province's Wangmo county, where 31 people were missing, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Nong Wenhui, a deputy governor of Wangmo. Another person was missing in the province's Luodian county.

Some 45,000 residents in worst-hit Wangmo county have evacuated the area flood waters inundated Monday, said Tang Quanshu of the county's flood prevention office. She said another 3,000 people were still stranded.

Meanwhile, the waters toppled 800 houses and damaged nearly 5,000, while 50 square miles (13,000 hectares) of farmland were under water, Tang said.

Xinhua, citing county flood officials, reported that the flooding disrupted power and water supplies and telecommunications services in several towns in Wangmo county, which has a population of 8 million. It said the floods destroyed roads and bridges and washed away more than 500 vehicles.

About 6,000 students from four schools had to stay at home Tuesday, as their schools were rendered inaccessible by water, the county's education chief Yan Tie said according to Xinhua.

Cao Zeyang, principal of the county's No. 2 Primary School, said that flooding destroyed the school's 300-meter-long enclosure and submerged several classrooms, with waters on campus 5 feet (1.6 meters) deep on Monday.

UN could split Afghan Taliban, al-Qaida black list

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United Nations said Tuesday it is considering creating separate terrorism blacklists for al-Qaida and the Taliban, a political gesture that could spur possible Afghan peace talks.

Peter Wittig, permanent representative of Germany to the United Nations and chairman of the U.N. committee overseeing the sanctions, said the panel will decide in about two weeks whether to divide the list.

The U.S. and Afghan governments have said that they are willing to reconcile with Taliban members who renounce violence, embrace the Afghan constitution and sever ties with al-Qaida. Making two separate lists would symbolically delink the Taliban from al-Qaida, recognizing their different agendas.

"It would highlight the significance of the political efforts that are ongoing in Afghanistan," Wittig told a group of reporters at a briefing in the Afghan capital.

Al-Qaida is focused on worldwide jihad against the West and establish-

ment of a religious state in the Muslim world, while Afghan Taliban militants have focused on their own country and have shown little interest in attacking targets outside Afghanistan.

"The links are there, but they don't justify putting them in the same basket," said Wittig, whose country favors the split. "There would be an element of Afghan ownership because there would be an obligation to consult with the Afghan government on requests concerning changes to the list. So they would get a more prominent role."

Some nations, however, are still undecided about whether to embrace the idea of splitting the list. All committee members must vote in favor for it to be approved. It's unclear, for instance, whether it will be approved by Russia, which has expressed reluctance in the past to approve requests to delist Taliban members.

Afghan authorities are talking to council members to persuade them to back the idea.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has been making peace overtures to mem-

bers of the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan for five years and sheltered al-Qaida before being driven out of power in the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001. The Taliban have long demanded removal from the sanctions list to help promote reconciliation.

The current U.N. sanctions list for both al-Qaida and the Taliban includes about 450 people, entities and organizations, including roughly 140 with links to the Taliban.

The Afghan government already has asked a U.N. panel to take about 50 Taliban figures off the sanctions list, which keeps them subject to an asset freeze and travel ban. The committee will rule on many of these requests next week.

Wittig said later at a news conference that he expected some Taliban members to be delisted by mid-June.

"The question is 'Does the individual still pose a terrorist threat?' That's the criteria to delist an individual, but this of course is linked to the overall political situation," he said. "The Security Council and the members of the sanctions committee are aware that there is

a political process going on."

Meanwhile, authorities said insurgents kidnapped and killed an Afghan provincial council chief from a region set to be handed over by NATO troops to local security forces in July.

Police found the body of Jawad Zhouka of the central province of Bamiyan on Tuesday along a major road running through neighboring Parwan province, said provincial Gov. Abdul Basir Salangi. Zhouka led the Bamiyan provincial council, which oversaw the government in the relatively peaceful region.

Insurgents kidnapped Zhouka on Friday as he was driving back from Kabul after flying from a meeting in western Afghanistan, Bamiyan council member Zainab Noori said.

Bamiyan province is one of seven areas NATO plans to hand over to Afghan security forces in July. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said last month that plans to transfer control remained on course, despite recent bombings and assaults by insurgents in the areas.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Speeding bus flips off bridge, kills 21 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police say a speeding bus toppled off a bridge in southern India, bursting into flames and killing 21 passengers. Villagers helped police put out the fire before pulling the charred bodies from the wreckage before dawn on Wednesday. Only two people including the driver survived the accident. It happened just before midnight when the bus tried to overtake a truck and flipped over the

bridge into a dry gully in Avallur village of Tamil Nadu state.

Communist rebel attacks kill 6 in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say a string of attacks by communist rebels in the country's south has killed six people, including five security personnel and one village leader. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon said Wednesday that two special forces soldiers ambushed

while en route to secure a government convoy were among those killed in seven attacks Tuesday by the New People's Army rebels in eastern Mindanao Island. Another soldier, a policeman, a government militiaman and a village leader also died in separate attacks.

NZ mourns death of Shrek the famously shaggy sheep

New Zealanders were mourning the loss of the country's most famous sheep Tuesday, a shaggy national icon

named Shrek who was renowned for avoiding being shorn for years. Shrek captured the public's imagination in 2004 after he evaded the annual shearing roundups for the previous seven years by hiding in caves on his farm on the South Island. When finally found, he was clad in an astonishing 60 pounds (27 kilograms) of wool. That's about five times a typically annual shearing from Shrek's breed, the Merino sheep prized for some of the softest wool. (AP)

World

Syrian mutiny, loss of town shows cracks in regime

BEIRUT (AP)—A deadly mutiny of Syrian soldiers and loss of control over a tense northern town appeared to show extraordinary cracks in an autocratic regime that has long prided itself on its iron control.

Details about the events in Jisr al-Shughour remained murky on Tuesday. The government said 120 forces were dead, without explaining the enormous loss of life, and acknowledged losing “intermittent” control of the area.

But the reports Tuesday from residents and activists—and the television appearance of a soldier who says he switched sides after his hometown was bombarded—were the clearest sign yet that the weekly protests of thousands of Syrians are eroding President Bashar Assad’s grip.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe of France, Syria’s former colonial ruler with whom Assad maintained good relations, said the president had lost his legitimacy to rule. British foreign secretary William Hague said Assad must “reform or step aside.”

France, Britain, Germany and Portugal have circulated a draft U.N. Security Council resolution that would condemn Syria for its killing and torture of peaceful protesters and demand an immediate end to the violence. But veto-wielding Russia has voiced opposition.

Juppe told reporters after a

council meeting Tuesday on HIV/AIDS that it’s “inconceivable” that the Security Council is remaining silent when repression in Syria is getting worse and massacres are increasing.

Juppe said the resolution’s supporters are waiting for as large a majority as possible in the 15-member council before bringing the resolution to a vote, “and I think it’s a question of days, maybe hours.”

Unlike the early days of the rebellion in Libya, Assad has

managed to keep his government together. On Tuesday, the network France 24 aired audio it said was of the Syrian ambassador to France issuing a stinging resignation; less than an hour later Syrian state television broadcast different audio of a woman’s voice denying she had quit and threatening to sue the French network.

It was not possible to reconcile the two accounts or contact Ambassador Lamia Shakkour.

Activists and residents of Jisr

al-Shughour told The Associated Press that a number of soldiers joined forces with protesters after days of crackdowns in the region, leading to fighting with officers and security guards in which dozens were killed.

The Jisr al-Shughour resident said people were fleeing the area for the Turkish border about 12 miles (20 kilometers) away, fearing retaliation from a regime known for ruthlessly crushing dissent. The government vowed Monday to re-

spond “decisively” to the violence there.

“People were struck by fear and panic after the government statements last night, it’s clear they are preparing for a major massacre,” he said.

Radwan Ziadeh, a Syrian dissident and a visiting scholar at the Institute for Middle East Studies at George Washington University, said the scale of the mutiny was unknown.

Ziadeh said the Syrian army was a strong institution “but in

the end, the army is from the people. The outrage over the killings is growing and the longer it goes on the more deserters we’re going to see,” he said.

An alleged army deserter identifying himself as Lt. Abdul-Razzaq Tlass appeared on the Al-Jazeera television network Tuesday, saying he was deserting because of the regime’s “crimes” all over the country. He called on other officers to protect protesters against the regime.



This undated amateur video image posted on the Internet and shown on Syrian state television shows a Syrian policeman lying on the ground apparently dead from gunshot wounds in Jisr al-Shughour, northern Syria.

US officials: Yemen leader heavily burned in blast

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—President Ali Abdullah Saleh was burned over 40 percent of his body and suffered bleeding in the brain from last weekend’s attack on his palace, U.S. officials said Tuesday, indicating his wounds were worse than initially reported. The revelation casts doubts on a quick return to Yemen and spells a deepening power vacuum.

In the wake of Saleh’s evacuation to Saudi Arabia for treatment, Yemen’s violence escalated, with government troops battling Islamic militants and opposition tribesmen in two southern cities on Tuesday. The military said it killed 30 militants who were among a group that took over the city of Zinjibar last week amid the country’s turmoil.

The United States fears that al-Qaida’s branch in Yemen - one of the terror network’s most active, blamed for two attempted anti-U.S. attacks - will take advantage of the chaos to strengthen its base in the country.

Washington and Saudi Arabia are pushing Yemeni officials to seize the opportunity of Saleh’s evacuation to immediately begin a transfer of power and formation of a new government. The U.S. ambassador in Sanaa spoke with Vice President Abed

Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is acting president, to press the American view, State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters in Washington.

Toner said he wasn’t sure how long Saleh would undergo treatment in Saudi Arabia, or whether he still planned on returning. But he said Yemen needed to move forward in the meantime.

“We need to see all sides moving forward on a constructive basis,” he said.

Friday’s attack on Saleh’s palace compound came amid two weeks of battles in Sanaa between government forces and opposition tribesmen determined to drive him from power. The fighting pushed the impoverished country closer to civil war after four months of street protests by hundreds of thousands of Yemenis failed to oust Saleh, who has been in power for nearly 33 years.

On Monday, Hadi said Saleh, in his late 60s, was improving after a series of operations in Saudi Arabia and would return home “within days.” If Saleh were to return, it would almost certainly re-ignite the fighting in the capital, which is only barely being contained by a Saudi-brokered cease-fire.

NATO unleashes blistering airstrikes in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi stood defiant Tuesday in the face of the heaviest and most punishing NATO airstrikes yet—at least 40 thunderous daylight attacks that sent plumes of smoke billowing above the Libyan leader’s central Tripoli compound.

The strikes continued overnight. Early Wednesday, some 10 explosions shook the Libyan capital. It was not immediately clear what was hit.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Libyan state television broadcast an audio address from Gadhafi, who denounced NATO and the rebels challenging his rule. He vowed never to surrender.

“We will not kneel!” he shouted.

Alliance officials warned for days that they were increasing the scope and intensity of their air campaign to oust Gadhafi after more than 40 years in power. NATO is backing the rebel insurgency, which has seized swaths of eastern Libya and pockets in the regime’s stronghold in the west since it began in February, inspired by uprisings elsewhere in the Arab world.

Some 6,850 people, nearly all

of them Libyans, have streamed across the border from Libya to Tunisia since Monday to flee the NATO raids as well as fighting between the rebels and government forces, according to the Tunisian Defense Ministry.

It couldn’t be confirmed whether Gadhafi’s some 10-minute speech was a live phone call or an audio recording, but it appeared to take state television by surprise. The sound was hastily adjusted to make it louder.

“We will not surrender: we only have one choice—to the end! Death, victory, it does not matter, we are not surrendering!” Gadhafi said. Highlighting his anger, he called the rebels “bastards.”

As he spoke, reporters in Tripoli heard the whooshing sound of low-flying military craft again, followed by several explosions. Pro-Gadhafi loyalists also fired celebratory gunfire in the air.

The Libyan leader also later appeared on state television sitting with tribal elders, said government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim. “He is still resilient,” Ibrahim said, adding that Gadhafi believes NATO strikes are

“not about civilians, democracy or peace in Libya. The attacks are about domination, revenge and wealth.”

Gadhafi was last seen in a brief appearance on state television in late May. He has mostly been in hiding since NATO strikes in April targeted one of his homes. Libyan officials said one of his sons, Saif al-Arab, and three of his grandchildren were killed in that strike.

Another of his sons, Al-Saadi Gadhafi—a one-time football player and leader of an army unit—also called into a late night state television show early Wednesday, denouncing the regime’s opponents.

The sharp escalation in NATO strikes comes as the U.S. and its allies step up efforts to break the virtual stalemate that has prevented both sides from achieving an outright victory.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Barack Obama once again called on Gadhafi to step aside.

“Gadhafi must step down and hand power to the Libyan people, and the pressure will only continue to increase until he does,” Obama said during a joint news conference in Wash-

ington with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is heading to the United Arab Emirates to confer with NATO nations and others prosecuting an air campaign in Libya to assess the effort to get Gadhafi to leave and increase support for the country’s opposition.

WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinian mosque set ablaze in West Bank

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Arsonists torched a West Bank mosque early Tuesday and scrawled Hebrew graffiti on one of its walls. The Palestinian mayor of el-Mughayer village said a tire was set ablaze inside the mosque in an apparent attempt to burn down the building. No one claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell upon Jewish settlers, both because they have carried out similar acts in the past and because the graffiti read, “Price tag, Aley Ayin.”

Ex-Mexican governor arrested in embezzlement case

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (AP)—A former governor was arrested Tuesday on suspicion that he embezzled more than \$9 million (about 100 million pesos) in federal disaster fund money meant to rebuild hurricane-struck zones in southern Mexico. Pablo Salazar, for-

merly governor of Chiapas, was detained in the airport of the Yucatan resort of Cancun by Chiapas state police, said Raziel Lopez, the state attorney general. Police flew him to Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas, Tuesday night to be presented before a judge.

23 killed, 6 missing in floods, mudslides in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Heavy rain hammered southern Haiti for a seventh straight day Tuesday, triggering floods and mudslides and causing houses and shanties in the capital to collapse. The official death toll was 23 but could rise as remnants of the storm lingered. Haitian authorities listed six people as missing. Runoff from the rain sent rivers surging and flooded many homes as people scrambled to their rooftops. The slow-moving storm system also toppled trees and debris blocked streets throughout the capital.

Focus

BAHIR JONAI, India (AP)—The wall of water raced through narrow Himalayan gorges in northeast India, gathering speed as it raked the banks of towering trees and boulders. When the torrent struck their island in the Brahmaputra river, the villagers remember, it took only moments to obliterate their houses, possessions and livestock.

No one knows exactly how the disaster happened, but everyone knows whom to blame: neighboring China.

"We don't trust the Chinese," says fisherman Akshay Sarkar at the resettlement site where he has lived since the 2000 flood. "They gave us no warning. They may do it again."

About 800 kilometers (500 miles) east, in northern Thailand, Chamlong Saengphet stands in the Mekong river, in water that comes only up to her shins. She is collecting edible river weeds from dwindling beds. A neighbor has hung up his fishing nets, his catches now too meager.

Using words bordering on curses, they point upstream, toward China.

The blame game, voiced in vulnerable river towns and Asian capitals from Pakistan to Vietnam, is rooted in fear that China's accelerating program of damming every major river flowing from the Tibetan plateau will trigger natural disasters, degrade fragile ecologies, divert vital water supplies.

A few analysts and environmental advocates even speak of water as a future trigger for war or diplomatic strong-arming, though others strongly doubt it will come to that. Still, the remapping of the water flow in the world's most heavily populated and thirstiest region is happening on a gigantic scale, with potentially strategic implications.

On the eight great Tibetan rivers alone, almost 20 dams have been built or are under construction while some 40 more are planned or proposed.

China is hardly alone in disrupting the region's water flows. Others are doing it with potentially even worse consequences. But China's vast thirst for power and water, its control over the sources of the rivers and its ever-growing political clout make it a singular target of criticism and suspicion.

"Whether China intends to use water as a political weapon or not, it is acquiring the capability to turn off the tap if it wants to—a leverage it can use to keep any riparian neighbors on good behavior," says Brahma Chellaney, an analyst at New Delhi's Center for Policy Research and author of the forthcoming "Water: Asia's New Battlefield."

Analyst Neil Padukone calls it "the biggest potential point of contention between the two Asian giants," China and India. But the stakes may be even higher since those eight Tibetan rivers serve a vast west-east arc of 1.8 billion people stretching from Pakistan to Vietnam's Mekong river delta.

Suspensions are heightened by Beijing's lack of transparency and refusal to share most hydrological and other data. Only China, along with Turkey, has refused to sign a key 1997 U.N. convention on transnational rivers.

Beijing gave no notice when it began building three dams on the Mekong—the first completed in 1993—or the \$1.2 billion Zangmu dam, the first on the mainstream of the 2,880-kilometer (1,790-mile) Brahmaputra which was started last November and hailed in official media as "a landmark priority project."

The 2000 flood that hit Sarkar's vil-



In this Feb. 19, 2011 photo, a fisherman casts his net to catch fish in a river near Bahir Jonai, Assam, India. A vast and heavily populated region of Asia that depends on water from Tibetan rivers is feeling the effects of China's ambitious efforts to redraw its water map. Some even worry about future water wars; others say there's still time for diplomacy to keep the peace.

Water wars? Thirsty, energy-short China stirs fear

lage, is widely believed to have been caused by the burst of an earthen dam wall on a Brahmaputra tributary. But China has kept silent.

"Until today, the Indian government has no clue about what happened," says Ravindranath, who heads the Rural Volunteer Center. He uses only one name.

Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has also warned of looming dangers stemming from the Tibetan plateau.

"It's something very, very essential. So, since millions of Indians use water coming from the Himalayan glaciers... I think you (India) should express more serious concern. This is nothing to do with politics, just everybody's interests, including Chinese people," he said in New Delhi last month.

Beijing normally counters such censure by pointing out that the bulk of water from the Tibetan rivers springs from downstream tributaries, with only 13-16 percent originating in China.

Officials also say that the dams can benefit their neighbors, easing droughts and floods by regulating flow, and that hydroelectric power reduces China's carbon footprint.

China "will fully consider impacts to downstream countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu recently told The Associated Press. "We have clarified several times that the dam being built on the Brahmaputra River has a small storage capacity. It will not have large impact on water flow or the ecological environment of downstream."

For some of China's neighbors, the problem is that they too are building controversial dams and may look hypo-

critical if they criticize China too loudly.

The four-nation Mekong River Commission has expressed concerns not just about the Chinese dams but about a host of others built or planned in downstream countries.

In northeast India, a broad-based movement is fighting central government plans to erect more than 160 dams in the region, and Laos and Cambodia have proposed plans for 11 Mekong dams, sparking environmental protest.

Indian and other governments play down any threats from the Asian colossus. "I was reassured that (the Zangmu dam) was not a project designed to divert water and affect the welfare and availability of water to countries in the



lower reaches," India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said after talks with his Chinese counterpart late last year.

But at the grass roots, and among activists and even some government technocrats, criticism is expressed more readily.

"Everyone knows what China is doing, but won't talk about it. China has real power now. If it says something, everyone follows," says Somkiat Khuengchiangsa, a Thai environmental advocate.

Neither the Indian nor Chinese government responded to specific questions from the AP about the dams, but Beijing is signaling that it will relaunch mega-projects after a break of several years in efforts to meet skyrocketing demands for energy and water, reduce dependence on coal and lift some 300

million people out of poverty.

Official media recently said China was poised to put up dams on the still pristine Nu River, known as the Salween downstream. Seven years ago as many as 13 dams were set to go up until Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao ordered a moratorium.

That ban is regarded as the first and perhaps biggest victory of China's nascent green movement.

"An improper exploitation of water resources by countries on the upper reaches is going to bring about environmental, social and geological risks," Yu Xiaogang, director of the Yunnan Green Watershed, told The Associated Press. "Countries along the rivers have already formed their own way of using water resources. Water shortages could easily ignite extreme nationalist sentiment and escalate into a regional war."

But there is little chance the activists will prevail.

"There is no alternative to dams in sight in China," says Ed Grumbine, an American author on Chinese dams. Grumbine, currently with the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Yunnan province, notes that under its last five-year state plan, China failed to meet its hydroelectric targets and is now playing catch-up in its 2011-2015 plan as it strives to derive 15 percent of energy needs from non-fossil sources, mainly hydroelectric and nuclear.

The arithmetic pointing to more dam-building is clear: China would need 140 megawatts of extra hydroelectric power to meet its goal. Even if all the dams on the Nu go up, they would provide only 21 megawatts.

The demand for water region-wide will also escalate, sparking perhaps

that greatest anxieties—that China will divert large quantities from the Tibetan plateau for domestic use.

Noting that Himalayan glaciers which feed the rivers are melting due to global warming, India's Strategic Foresight Group last year estimated that in the coming 20 years India, China, Nepal and Bangladesh will face a depletion of almost 275 billion cubic meters (360 billion cubic yards) of annual renewable water.

Padukone expects China will have to divert water from Tibet to its dry eastern provinces. One plan for rerouting the Brahmaputra was outlined in an officially sanctioned 2005 book by a Chinese former army officer, Li Ling. Its title: "Tibet's Waters Will Save China."

Analyst Chellaney believes "the issue is not whether China will reroute the Brahmaputra, but when." He cites Chinese researchers and officials as saying that after 2014 work will begin on tapping rivers flowing from the Tibetan plateau to neighboring countries. Such a move, he says, would be tantamount to a declaration of war on India.

Others are skeptical. Tashi Tsering, a Tibetan environmentalist at the University of British Columbia who is otherwise critical of China's policies, calls a Brahmaputra diversion "a pipe dream of some Chinese planners."

Grumbine shares the skepticism. "The situation would have to be very dire for China to turn off the taps because the consequences would be huge," he said. "China would alienate every one of its neighbors and historically the Chinese have been very sensitive about maintaining secure borders."

Whatever else may happen, river-side inhabitants along the Mekong and Brahmaputra say the future shock is now.

A fisherman from his youth, Boonrian Chinnarat says the Mekong giant catfish, the world's largest freshwater fish, has all but vanished from the vicinity of Thailand's Had Krai village, other once bountiful species have been depleted, and he and fellow fishermen have sold their nets. He blames the Chinese dams.

Phumee Boontom, headman of nearby Pak Ing village, warns that "If the Chinese keep the water and continue to build more dams, life along the Mekong will change forever." Already, he says, he has seen drastic variations in water levels following dam constructions, "like the tides of the ocean -- low and high in one day."

Jeremy Bird, who heads the Mekong commission, an intergovernmental body of Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos, sees a tendency to blame China for water-related troubles even when they are purely the result of nature. He says diplomacy is needed, and believes "engagement with China is improving."

Grumbine agrees. "Given the enormous demand for water in China, India and Southeast Asia, if you maintain the attitude of sovereign state, we are lost," he says. "Scarcity in a zero sum situation can lead to conflict but it can also goad countries into more cooperative behavior. It's a bleak picture, but I'm not without hope."

Environment

Magas gives scientists a peek at her whereabouts

Magas, a green sea turtle that regularly nests at the Lao Lao Bay Beach, became the second satellite tagged turtle in Saipan's history, with the installation of a satellite tag on her shell on May 31, 2011.

The turtle was named Magas (boss in the Chamorro language) with the assistance of Rota High School students. The first satellite tagged sea turtle on Saipan was named Kumiko, in dedication and memorial to a volunteer and friend to the CNMI Sea Turtle Program who passed away after a fight with cancer on the same evening the turtle emerged to nest.

Sea turtles that nest in the CNMI only stay long enough to mate and lay several nests and are off again to their next destination: foraging grounds. These foraging grounds are places where turtles find food and shelter for several years until they return to their nesting grounds to lay eggs on Saipan beaches again.

The satellite tag will allow researchers to keep track of where Magas goes after nesting on Saipan. Satellite tags are radio transmitters that send signals to satellites orbiting earth. Information from the satellite is then relayed to computers via the ARGOS system. Scientists then plot tracks and produce maps showing the migration routes of each tagged turtle.

Satellite tagging provides immediate and detailed information on turtle movements, dive time, and water temperature, showing the actual route taken to foraging areas by turtles after nesting.

Once Magas' tag is registered online, scientists, schoolchil-



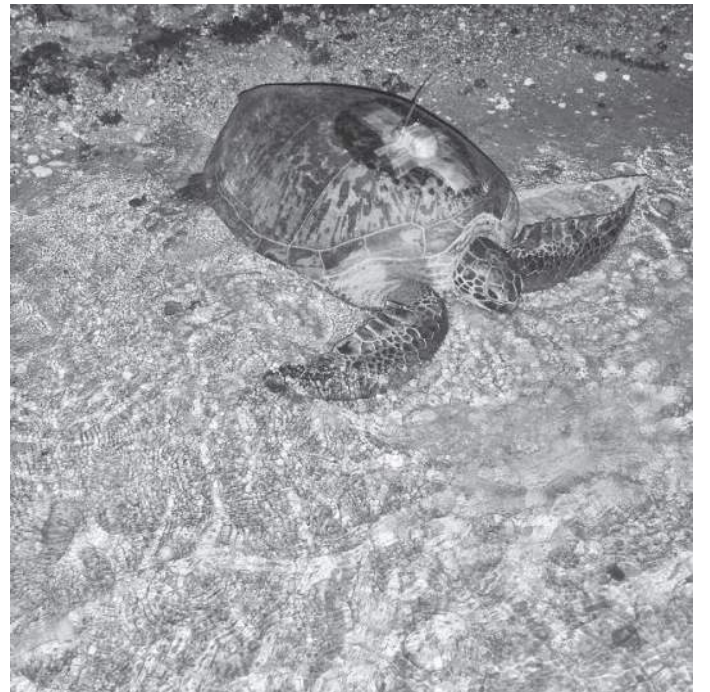
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Magas lays a clutch of eggs at her nesting site in Lao Lao Bay. The total egg count was 74.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Ruak and Jess Hapdei with satellite tagged turtle Magas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Magas leaves Lao Lao Beach after the deployment of her satellite tag.

dren, and members of the community alike will be able to track her progress on www.seaturtle.org and www.ihaggan.com.

This project is supported

by the CNMI Department of Lands & Natural Resources and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. **(Tammy Summers)**

What's getting under your skin this summer?

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLEACHY NEWSPAPERS

What's really getting under your skin this summer? If you are one of the millions buying sunscreens and bug sprays this season, you might be disgusted to find out what actually is. That's because what you're slathering or spraying on your skin may contain unhealthy, ineffective and toxic ingredients. Do Your Part before you head outdoors to learn about the smarter options for having safe summer skin.

The most important thing to do this season is to pick a good sunscreen. I don't know about you, but the sunscreen aisle can be overwhelming for me. Most of the bottles and tubes advertise incredible SPFs or anti-aging abilities. The biggest problem with most of them is not that those claims go unchecked,



MCT

Do your part: What's getting under your skin this summer?

it's what their ingredients do to your health. Your best bet to buying the safest sunscreens for you and your family is to pick ones with zinc and titani-

um. The trusted Environmental Working Group (EWG) recommends avoiding the controversial ingredient oxybenzone because it is thought to actually

alter hormonal systems. It's also recommended to avoid spray on or powdery sunscreens because the potentially harmful ingredients can be easily inhaled.

So just when you think you have all that figured out, there's another ingredient to take into consideration and it is something found in roughly 30% of all sunscreens and many anti-aging lotions. It's vitamin A and some research shows this additive can increase the risk of certain skin cancers on skin that is exposed to sun. So how do you really wade through the huge sea of sunscreens to find what's really the best for you and your family? The EWG has an online sunscreen guide that rates hundreds of sunscreens by safety and tells you what's the best and what's the worst. They also have a handy (and free!) smart phone app that allows you to look up sunscreens by name while you're shopping. We've got the information for you at DoYourPart.com/columns.

There's one more thing we use a lot of in the summer months and that's mosquito repellent. There's no need to cover yourself in the controversial

chemical DEET when there are safer alternatives. Lemon oil, eucalyptus oil, citronella and cedar oil are natural alternatives to keeping mosquitoes away. And, don't forget the power of prevention. Prevent stagnant, standing water in your yard, which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. You can use non-toxic mosquito dunks for rain barrels or birdbaths to keep mosquitoes from breeding.

Having safe summer skin doesn't mean dousing yourself in potentially harmful chemicals that may not even do the job. Instead, Do Your Part to seek out safer and effective options for you and your family this summer.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Surfing Madonna mosaic draws following in US

By JULIE WATSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENCINITAS, California (AP)—The surfing Madonna appeared just before Easter weekend and has been stirring a soulful debate in this Southern California beach town ever since.

The striking mosaic of the Virgin of Guadalupe riding a wave was affixed to a wall under a train bridge by artists disguised as construction workers in April. It technically is graffiti that should be removed under the law.

But the surfing Madonna's beauty is drawing a following, and even city officials who say she must go acknowledge they too have been taken by her. They have spent thousands to hire an art conservation agency to find the best way to remove her without causing damage.

The 10-by-10-foot (3-by-3-meter) rock and glass mosaic poses an interesting dilemma over whether a city should spend lots of money to get rid of artwork that is illegal but well done and actually beautifies a place.

Deciding what is graffiti is a growing debate worldwide with guerrilla artists gaining respect in established art circles. A number of museums have brought the street art indoors for prestigious exhibits in recent years, while pieces of illegal art snatched up by dealers have been fetching hefty sums.

A Los Angeles show billed as the first major museum exhibit of street art at the Museum of

Contemporary Art in Little Tokyo sparked a similar debate last month when unauthorized etchings started showing up on buildings in the neighborhood. The exhibit included Chaz Bojorquez's stark, black-and-white "Senor Suerte" drawings, once a fixture on the concrete-lined waterways of Los Angeles, and the colorful "Howard the Duck" murals that Lee Quinones covered New York City with in the 1970s.

Support for the wave-riding Virgin has only flourished amid the controversy. She is now on Twitter and Facebook, pleading for help: "I'm the Surfing Madonna. Cherished public mosaic. Hangin' in Encinitas. Hoping to become famous enough to be saved."

Jack Quick, a local art dealer, saw the men in hard hats put up the mosaic in daylight just days before Easter. He estimates it cost \$1,000 in materials and more than 100 hours to build it. The city does not know which artist or artists did the work. No one has stepped forward.

Inside a piercing blue wave, Our Lady of Guadalupe balances on a white surf board decorated with the angelic face of Juan Diego, the indigenous boy who is said to have seen the Virgin on a Mexican hillside in 1531. Her vibrant green robe curls up around her as if blowing in the sea breeze as she surfs with her iconic serene face. Down one side are the words: "Save the Ocean."

Thousands of people have come to see the artwork. Some



AP
Art restorers Andrea Morse, below, and Andrew Smith, both of Los Angeles, test the possibility of removing the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe riding a surfboard from under a train overpass without damaging the artwork Tuesday, June 7, 2011, in Encinitas, Calif.

have brought flowers and lit votive candles on the sidewalk under her.

Artist Jules Itzkoff was among those who have visited the mosaic. He said he was captivated by the "piece of glassy vandalism."

"It's just interesting when a piece of vandalism pops up that's so beautiful and so different that it doesn't resemble what we normally think of as graffiti," Itzkoff said. "It should be an important landmark for graffiti artists: Somebody in their community has created something that the city actually likes! Surfing Madonna speaks for the future of graffiti art in America. The goal could be to create work that society wants to keep."

But he admits: "That's a bit idealistic."

It's also unrealistic, says Encinitas Mayor James Bond, and would put city officials in the position of deciding the taste of Encinitas, which has about 63,000 residents. He added the mosaic's religious connotations also have drawn complaints.

Some say the artwork blurs the line between church and state; others consider it sacrilegious to have Mexico's patron saint pictured surfing.

"We can't just go around saying, 'Well, when someone slaps up something nice, we like it and it can stay.' Or, 'Oh, we don't like it, so we've got to take it down,'" Bond said. "We can't do that with art because people always love and hate the same piece of art. So it's a slippery slope."

It also could quickly get out of control in a town like Encinitas that is full of artists, he said.

The city is covered with public artwork, including an infamous bronze statue depicting a surfer boy on a wave that has come to be known as the Cardiff "Kook." The statue got the name from people in the local surf community from nearby Cardiff by the Sea who started poking fun at the artwork because they thought the boy's delicate hands pointed upward seemed effeminate. People have been dressing up the statue for years to reflect the day's news

or holiday season—it recently donned a curly wig and dress for Oprah's departing show—sending crews out regularly to clean it up, Bond said.

Bond says the city does not want to be a "Gestapo" and go after the light-hearted pranksters whose stunts are easily removed, but the surfing Madonna sets a dangerous precedent.

The Los Angeles-based art conservation agency, Sculpture Conservation Studio, on Tuesday began testing ways to safely remove the mosaic. Its workers told reporters standing nearby that they saw a name under the colorful glass but didn't know if it belonged to the artist.

The agency concluded in an earlier report that there is no better spot for the Surfing Madonna than under the overpass, protected from the sun and rain. The artwork is stuck to the concrete wall with a strong epoxy glue.

"Its lifespan here may be longer than if put elsewhere," the agency said in its report to the city.

Bond expects moving the mosaic will be costly, but local businesses are raising funds to cover the city's expenses. And several people have offered to buy the artwork.

Although it's graffiti, the City Council wants the mosaic to be relocated to a place where the public can continue to view it.

City workers, meanwhile, have been busy cleaning up other unauthorized art—including a painting of a monster's face that turned up under train tracks in a separate part of town shortly after the Surfing Madonna. That painting was whitewashed in 24 hours with not a word of protest.

Nintendo debuts touchscreen Wii successor

BY DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nintendo has introduced the world to the Wii's touchy new big brother: the Wii U.

The Japanese gaming giant on Tuesday unveiled the Wii video game console's successor, which will broadcast high-definition video and feature a touchscreen controller that can detect motion and interact with what appears on a television display.

"Up until now, home console games had to occupy the TV screen in order to be played," said Nintendo president Satoru Iwata. "The new controller for Wii U, with its 6.2-inch (15.7-centimeter) screen built in, means you won't need to give up your gameplay when someone else comes in the room and wants to watch a TV program."

The white touchscreen controller, reminiscent of Apple Inc.'s iPad and other tablet computers, can broadcast standard-definition video but also features a directional pad, microphone, dual analog sticks, speakers, two pairs of shoulder buttons and a front-facing cam-



AP
The new Nintendo Wii U gaming console is displayed on a video screen during a news conference at the E3 Gaming Convention in Los Angeles, Tuesday, June 7, 2011.

era, which can be used to make video calls.

The console itself will use proprietary high-definition optical discs, 1080p HDMI output and internal memory that can be upgraded with USB and SD technology. No other technical specifications were provided.

The prototype controller was demonstrated during the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the gaming industry's annual convention, in several ways: dis-

playing a player's inventory in a "Legend of Zelda" game, offering an alternative way to play a chasing game, being used as a shield from incoming attacks in a first-person shooter game and showing the image of a teed-up golf ball on the ground before it was struck to a putting green depicted on a TV.

The controller was also shown being used to browse the Internet both on a TV and the controller. Reggie Fils-Aime,

Nintendo of America president, noted that the touchscreen controller is not meant to be a portable gaming device and that the system is dubbed the Wii U because its "unique, unifying and maybe even utopian."

Nintendo said the Wii U will be released between April and December next year and will be backward-compatible with Wii games and controllers.

"Smash Brothers," "Dark-siders II," "Batman: Arkham City," "Tekken," "Assassin's Creed" and "Metro: Last Light" were among the titles announced that would be released for the system.

The price for Wii U was not revealed.

The unveiling of the Wii U comes after two years of slumping sales for Nintendo's Wii, which remains the overall top-selling home video game console against Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox 360 and Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 3. Those consoles already feature high-definition graphics and added motion-sensing capabilities similar to the Wii last year with their respective Kinect and Move camera systems.



Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez

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The children and family of the late "Joe Kiyu" would like to thank all of you who have helped along the year.

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On the final day, June 13, 2011 immediately following the Eucharistic celebration, please join us for breakfast at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall.

Si Yu'us Mase!

Tuna, strudel at al fresco feast for Angela Merkel

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House went all out to underscore the theme of friendship at Tuesday's state dinner for German Chancellor Angela Merkel: It even did a little social engineering with James Taylor's playlist for the al fresco gathering in the Rose Garden.

"They actually specifically suggested 'You've Got a Friend,'" Taylor reported as he arrived. "That's sort of the theme of the evening."

Spring was in the air but it wasn't obvious from the evening's designer finery. Shades of black, deep gray and blue dominated among the female guests, including Merkel, the guest of honor.

"You look lovely tonight," President Barack Obama said to Merkel as she arrived with her husband, Joachim Sauer.

Merkel traded in her customary pantsuit for a black gown with short sleeves and an off-center neckline.

Amid all the sober colors, first lady Michelle Obama stood out in a cream-colored, sleeveless gown with vertical silver accents and a short train. It was designed by Naeem Khan, who also made the gown

she wore to a state dinner for India in November 2009.

For the first time, the Obamas were serving dinner underneath the skies in the Rose Garden, just steps from the Oval Office. The fare featured tuna tartare and petite filet.

Obama used the dinner toasts as an occasion to present Merkel with the Presidential Medal of

Freedom. And after the citation was read aloud, Obama told the 200-plus dinner guests to go ahead and applaud. But then the president realized he'd forgotten something. "I've got to do the toast," he reminded himself.

And he did just that.

Tuesday's dinner played out on a Rose Garden lawn that was covered with gray and white carpet. The guests dined on a mix of long and round tables covered with white and silver sequined linens topped with green-and-yellow centerpieces of calla lilies, orchids and other flowers.

On the menu? The tuna, which came from Hawaii, was being paired with rye crisps and the petite filet served with

Maryland crab ravioli. The salad came from the first lady's garden, dressed in vinaigrette made of White House honey. For dessert, the pastry chef whipped up apple strudel from a recipe that's said to be a twist on traditional German strudel. It was made with farmer's cheese from Vermont.

Also performing was the National Symphony Orchestra. But what German-born conductor Christoph Eschenbach brought was essentially the NSO lite: Just 30 of the group's 100-plus musicians could fit on the stage erected on the South Lawn.

Eschenbach promised a program heavy on German composers—Beethoven, Handel, Mendelssohn, but no Wagner (Merkel's favorite) because of the smaller number of musicians. He said the warm weath-

er "might be a bit humid on the keys" but wasn't a huge problem for the musicians.

Obama said Merkel deserved the presidential medal because of her remarkable career.

Merkel grew up in communist East Germany, living a life devoid of many freedoms until the Berlin Wall that divided her country was brought down in 1989. She was in her 30s. Six years ago, she became the first woman and first East German to become chancellor of a unified Germany.

"She represents the unification of Europe through her own life story and the capacity to overcome the past and point towards a brighter future," Obama said at a joint news conference with Merkel at his side.

"Very old," she pronounced it. The black-tie dinner for

Merkel capped a day of all-out diplomatic outreach that was carefully orchestrated to highlight Germany's growing role in world affairs and its importance as a U.S. partner.

It began with a 19-gun salute on the South Lawn and included meetings with Obama and his advisers, the news conference in the East Room and a State Department lunch.

Merkel was the first European leader to receive such treatment from Obama.

Amid all of the evening's finery, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar offered a reality check when reporters asked who'd made her gown.

"This would be ..." she began, then confessed: "OK, it cost \$170. And the shoes, \$29." And she kicked up her heels to show off her bargain find.



Merkel

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X-Men: First Class

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender
 Action, Fantasy • PG 13

Synopsis

Set in the era before Professor Charles Xavier and Erik Lehnsherr became mortal enemies as Professor X and Magneto, respectively, director Matthew Vaughn's *X-Men: First Class* follows the two former allies as they lead a powerful team of mutants on a mission to save the planet from nuclear annihilation. Charles (James McAvoy) and Erik (Michael Fassbender) were just young men when it began to appear as if the world was careening toward destruction.



Oba: The Last Samurai

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Yutaka Takenouchi, Sean McGowan
 Drama • NR

Synopsis

The fall of Saipan during WWII is viewed from Japanese and American perspectives in "Oba, the Last Samurai," an engrossing portrait of Capt. Sakae Oba, whose loyalist band continued fighting for four months after hostilities officially ceased. Carefully balancing Oba's guerrilla campaign with a U.S. officer's mission to flush him out, this handsomely mounted pic captures the mindset of Japanese soldiers and civilians coming to terms with an unthinkable defeat.



Kung Fu Panda 2

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Jack Black, Angelina Jolie
 Children's Family • Rated PG

Jack Black and Angelina Jolie return to lend their voice talents to the *Kung Fu Panda* franchise with this second entry from DreamWorks Animation and Paramount Pictures. Jennifer Yuh Nelson directs from a script by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger.



The Hangover Part 2

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Bradley Cooper, Zack Galifianakis
 Comedy • Rated R



Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz
 Adventure • Rated PG 13



Thor

Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
 Action • Rated PG 13



Fast Five

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action • Rated PG 13

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Michelle Obama chooses Naeem Khan gown—again

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
 AP FASHION WRITER

On one of the first hot, summer-weather evenings of the season in Washington, Michelle Obama turned up the glamour with her dress choice for Tuesday night's state dinner at the White House in honor of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Mrs. Obama shimmered in an all-over embellished gown by Naeem Khan. It was an ivory, V-neck column dress embellished with silver beads, white sequins and metallic thread in a geometric pattern—and she's back to what seems like her favorite seasonal sleeveless look, which shows off her famously toned arms.

Khan also designed the gown Mrs. Obama wore to the first state dinner she and President Barack Obama hosted for the Indian prime minister in 2009. Thursday's look, in fact, was reminiscent of that outfit—which was considered a style success.

She accessorized with gold bangle bracelets by Alexis Bittar.

"You know she's going to make fashion statement—and you know it's going to be quirky or a little flamboyant—but it matches her vibrant and joyful personality," said fashion commentator Mary Alice Stephenson, who consults for Khan and helps style the designer's runway shows. "It's happy fashion. You want to look at it."

Stephenson said Khan is a good choice for Mrs. Obama because he can convey sophistication without losing a little wink and nod to the fantasy of fashion. "Like Mrs. Obama, his clothes are alive. ... They're



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk out to welcome German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her husband Joachim Sauer at the North Portico of the White House as they arrive for the State Dinner in Washington, Tuesday, June 7, 2011.

classics but tweaked."

His signature beading provides the exclamation point that Mrs. Obama likes to add to her outfits, Stephenson said.

White looks regal on the first lady—especially on an otherwise clean silhouette, she said.

Mrs. Obama also wore a white Tom Ford gown last month in London when attend-

ing a formal dinner hosted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Most of the guests to this state dinner, to be held in the Rose Garden, wore more standard-issue black, gray and deep blue instead. The exception was House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who pulled a two-piece white Thierry Mugler from her closet. "Very old," she said.

Stewart cuts wrist during taping of Weiner skit

NEW YORK (AP)—The story about a U.S. congressman's use of Twitter to send a lewd photo to a woman has been awkward for comic Jon Stewart, a friend of the lawmaker. On Tuesday, it proved painful.

Stewart broke a glass and gashed his wrist while taping a skit about U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner on Comedy Central's satirical "The Daily Show." The taping was briefly stopped so a bleeding Stewart could get medical attention, then resumed after he was bandaged up. Network spokesman Steve Albani said the accident was left in Tuesday's show.



Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y. walks from his office to an elevator in the Rayburn House Office Building for a vote, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wed., June 1, 2011.

Stewart and Weiner briefly roomed together when they were younger, a point "The Daily Show" host noted over the past week. That hasn't stopped Stewart from making fun of his friend, who admitted Monday to inappropriate online contact with women he met on social networks.

Tuesday's skit featured Stewart in a mock news conference designed to resemble Weiner's from the day earlier. Stewart broke the glass when the script called for him to make a margarita.

The show posted a picture of Stewart's bandaged wrist and a bloodstained cuff of his shirt.

Rapper Ja Rule due to go to prison in NYC gun case

NEW YORK (AP)—Multiplatinum-selling rapper Ja Rule is set to go to prison, but he's leaving fans with an album on the way.

The rapper-actor—whose gravelly voice, thuggish tough talk and duets with R&B divas made him one of rap's



Ja Rule

stars in the early 2000s—is set to be sentenced Wednesday to two years in a New York prison.

"My last day out," he Tweeted Tuesday afternoon, adding that he was spending it at the movies with

his family.

Ja Rule, 35, pleaded guilty in

December to attempted criminal possession of a weapon, resolving a nearly four-year-old case.

Police said they found a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun in a rear door of his \$250,000-plus Maybach sports car, which they said they'd stopped for speeding as he left a star-laden concert at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre on July 22, 2007.

NBC retains Olympic rights for 4 games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—NBC retained its hold on U.S. Olympic television rights Tuesday in a four-games deal through 2020 worth nearly \$4.4 billion, defeating rival bids from ESPN and Fox.

"I can say the Olympics are really in their DNA," IOC President Jacques Rogge said, referring to the network, which has dominated the Olympic broadcast scene in the U.S. for 20 years.

NBC has broadcast every

Summer Olympics since 1988 and every Winter Games since 2002, and it was the network's experience and familiarity with the IOC—as well as its money—which won over the Olympic body again.

NBC now will have exclusive rights to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the 2018 Winter Games and 2020 Olympics, whose sites have not yet been chosen.

IOC TV rights negotiator Richard Carrion said the deal is worth \$4.382 billion overall. That includes \$2.01 billion for the 2014/16 Games and \$2.38 billion for the 2018/20 Olympics.

Carrion declined to say how much the other networks offered. But executives with direct knowledge of the proposals told The Associated Press that Fox bid \$3.4 billion for four games and \$1.5 billion for two, while ESPN offered \$1.4 billion for two.

Jennifer Hudson working on book about weight loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Hudson is working on a memoir, mostly about food.

The Academy Award-winning actress and singer has a deal with Dutton for a memoir



Hudson

about her struggles with weight and how she dropped 80 pounds (36 kilograms).

Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), announced Tuesday that Hudson's book will come out in January. The memoir is currently untitled.

The 29-year-old Hudson is known for the film "Dreamgirls," for which she won an Oscar for best supporting actress. Her latest album, "I Remember Me," came out this year.

Near-sighted hostess insists glasses are for her eyes only

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am severely myopic and can't see without my prescription eyewear. Yet people continually ask me if they can "borrow" my glasses to read the menu. (I work as a hostess.) Abby, my glasses are not reading glasses; they are my eyes—literally. When I explain this, I get snorts, grunts and muttered comments that I am "rude."

My husband says I should let them try on my glasses and cut out the explanation, as they would immediately realize that they can't see through them. I disagree. I think it is inappropriate to even ask, let alone become offended when I politely refuse.

Abby, I would like to explain the concept of reading glasses versus prescription eyewear: Most people do not walk around with reading glasses fully on their face. Reading glasses are often halfway down the nose or hanging around a person's neck so they don't impair his or her distance vision. If someone is wearing glasses full on their face—they're usually not reading glasses. If a person is wearing glasses, do not ask to borrow them. Instead, ask if there is a pair of reading glasses at the wait station or host stand.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

DEAR "BLIND": I'm printing your letter, but I warn you—there are none so blind as those who will not see. For a stranger to expect to borrow someone's glasses is presumptuous. If the bows were bent or the lenses were broken, you'd be in serious trouble.

Talk to your employer about keeping a magnifying glass or several pairs of reading glasses in various strengths available for patrons who have forgotten theirs. Many restaurants do. With our aging demographic, it's good business, because people order more when they can see the menu.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a female manager in a male-dominated field, and a high-level corporate executive. I am good at what I do, but sometimes I become impatient with subordinates who don't "get it" like I do. I admit I prefer the company of some over others.

Several years ago, a friendship with a subordinate turned into something more. I was—and still am—married with children. During this time I had to discharge another employee for substandard performance. Since he left he has sent me several unsolicited emails in which he has suggested that he knows about the affair I had with his former co-worker and feels he didn't receive fair treatment because of it.

My former lover is no longer with the company, and I have done everything I can to put this behind me. I still worry, however, that the employee I let go may someday make the company aware of my indiscretions, or worse, my family. Abby, is there anything I can do to set the whole thing right?

THREATENED IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR THREATENED: Let me get this straight. You say you are good at your job as a manager, but you lose patience with subordinates who don't "get" things as quickly as you do—and play favorites among the employees in your department. If that's not a hostile work environment, it's at least one that's very unpleasant. And you had an affair with one of them? Didn't you know that you were leaving your company open to a lawsuit for sexual harassment? It appears that when you assumed the title of manager, you exceeded your level of competence.

You have gotten yourself into a jam from which I can't extricate you. Go to your superiors and tell them about the emails so the company can protect itself from a possible lawsuit for wrongful termination. Stop deluding yourself and face the consequences of any indiscretion you have made because you have placed not only yourself, but also your employer, in jeopardy.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

UK tabloid says sorry to Sienna Miller for hacking

LONDON (AP)—A British tabloid has formally apologized to actress Sienna Miller for hacking into her cell phone messages. Michael Silverleaf, a lawyer for News Group Newspapers, the publisher of The News of the World, offered "sincere apologies" to Miller in London's High Court Tuesday. The company acknowledged that the information obtained through hacking should never have been published. Miller settled the case for 100,000 pounds (\$164,500) in damages and costs. A lawyer for Miller said that she was the subject of numerous articles containing "intrusive and private information." A number of celebrities and public figures have said they were victims of phone hacking by the tabloid. News Group is owned by News International Ltd., a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

Ooh-la-la! Craig Ferguson's show heads to Paris

NEW YORK (AP)—Craig Ferguson is taking "The Late Late Show" to the City of Lights. The host of the CBS talk show has complained in the past that his studio is too dark. Ferguson announced on Monday's show that he'll travel from that budget-strapped Los Angeles home to tape in Paris the week of June 13-17. He jokes that "this is the first time in the history of this show that we've been allowed outside." Kristen Bell

will be among the guests joining Ferguson for the episodes dubbed "Le Late Late Show avec Craig Ferguson." They will be seen the week of Aug. 1. The "Late Late Show" airs weeknights at 12:37 a.m.

Bill Murray visits FDR's home for role in film

HYDE PARK, New York (AP)—Academy Award-nominated actor Bill Murray has checked out Franklin D. Roosevelt's old upstate New York digs as he prepares for a turn as the former president in a film set on the eve of World War II. The "Caddyshack" and "Ghostbusters" star spent several hours Sunday in Hyde Park, which is the setting for Richard Nelson's screenplay, "Hyde Park on Hudson." The film centers on the June 1939 visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to FDR's Hudson Valley home. The movie is being directed by Roger Michell, who helmed "Notting Hill." Laura Linney is cast as FDR's distant cousin Margaret "Daisy" Suckley, with whom the 32nd president had a close relationship. Filming starts next month. Release is scheduled for 2012.

Jeff Bridges at event to combat childhood hunger

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP)—Oscar winner Jeff Bridges is lending his star power to a public-private partnership in Virginia to combat childhood hunger. Bridges joined Gov. Bob McDonnell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

at Barcroft Elementary in Arlington for the start of Virginia's No Kid Hungry campaign. The program will connect low-income kids to federal nutrition programs, like those that provide lunches during summer when school's out. Currently fewer than 20 percent of kids in Virginia who are eligible for free and reduced price school lunches participate in summer meal programs. Bridges, who won an Academy Award for his role in "Crazy Heart," serves as a national spokesman for the No Kid Hungry campaign. Bridges said he'd feel miserable if he didn't do his part to alleviate childhood hunger.

Patti LaBelle, Steve Harvey honored at BET Awards

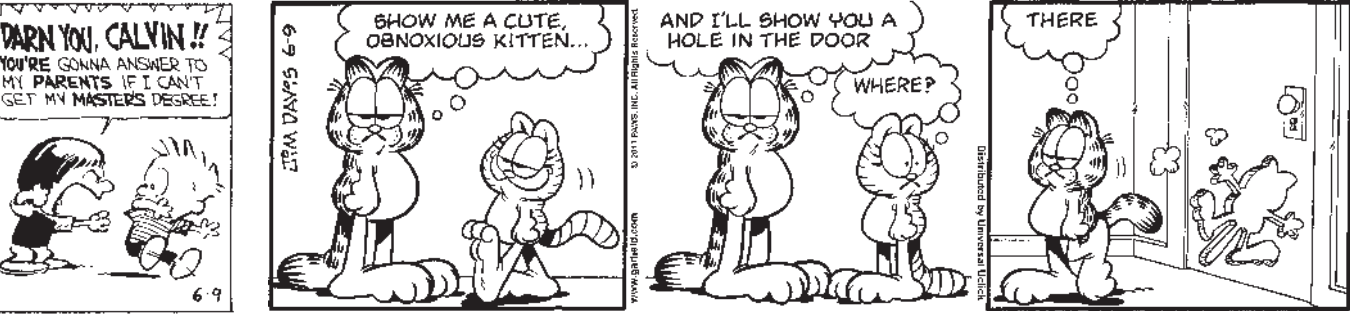
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Patti LaBelle will be recognized for her five decades in music and Steve Harvey will be honored for his philanthropic contributions at this year's BET Awards. BET says LaBelle will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award and Harvey will accept the Humanitarian Award at the annual ceremony, which honors actors, athletes, musicians, movies and music videos. This year's top nominee is Chris Brown, who is up for six awards and is set to perform on the live show. Jill Scott and Alicia Keys are also slated to perform. The BET Awards '11 will air live June 26 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on BET.

Pastimes

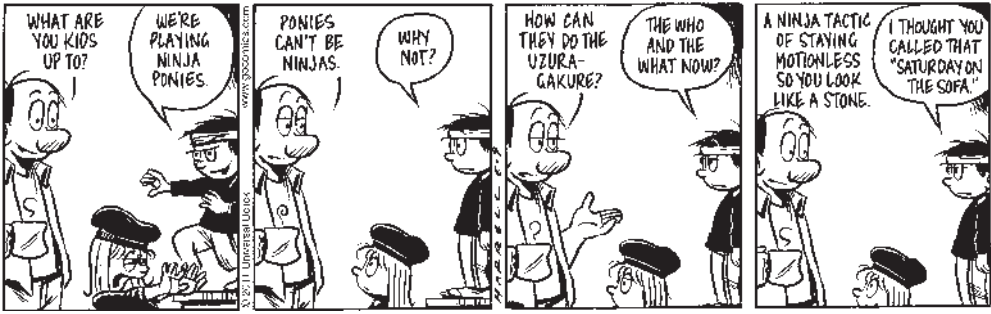
Calvin and Hobbes



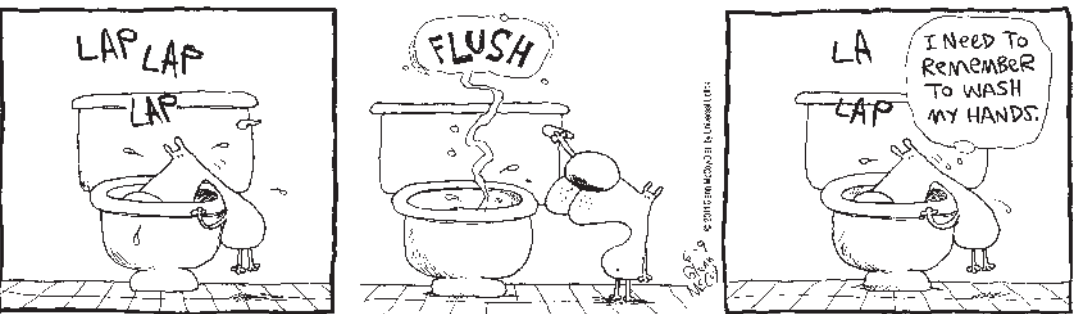
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Vacation-ing 4 Informa-tion 8 Barracks furniture 12 Dock-workers' org. 13 One 14 Hawaiian island 15 Wackos 17 Teensy bit 18 "— was saying, ..." 19 Burger topping 21 Vader, to Sky-walker 24 Pismire 25 Spoon-bender Geller 26 Wield a needle 28 Giggly sound 32 Head Stone? 34 Party bowlful

DOWN 36 Farmer's place 37 Art sup-porter? 39 Space 41 Aries 42 Shrill bark 44 Stirs 46 Anti-mob chemical 50 Cam-bridge sch. 51 Needle case 52 Disbe-lievers 56 Deserve 57 Withered 58 Snip 59 Dross 60 Still-life pitcher, maybe 61 Agent

22 Met melody 23 Roulette bet 27 Peruke 29 Dogma dis-senters 30 Joie de vivre 31 Shade providers 33 It dangles and jangles 35 Manhan-dle 38 Trail behind 40 Molly-coddle 43 Old hat 45 DIY buy 46 Fairway props 47 And others (Lat.) 48 Emana-tion 49 Twist the facts 53 Prior to 54 Recipe measure 55 Pigpen

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Portman, 30; Josh Hamilton, 42; Johnny Depp, 48; Michael J. Fox, 50

Happy Birthday: Spreading your ideas around via networking, socializing or through demonstration and participation will help you advance. Take charge, be aggressive and let everyone know you mean business. Focusing on ways to effectively help others will initiate new friendships, opportunities and propositions. Your numbers are 6, 13, 21, 23, 27, 33, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do what needs doing, regardless of what others want you to do. A change of plans may cause you anxiety, but if you go with the flow, you will find everything works out in the end. Don't let emotions cloud your vision. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Focus on personal change that can update your image and your outlook, but don't go overboard with regard to expense. Be wise and shop around. Love is in the stars, but not everyone will be honest with you. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not everyone will share your point of view. Secrecy will be in your best interest. The less explaining you have to do, the better. Don't question what others do, when listening and showing support is what's required. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make the necessary changes needed at home to smooth things over. Letting others help you will enhance your relationships and lead to suggestions you may be able to implement into your plans. You don't have to overspend, overdo

or overindulge to brighten your day. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Size up your situation before you engage in an emotional dispute. Space and time will heal any wounds you've endured and help you revisit your goals and your financial position. Be smart when dealing with matters that can affect your life professionally, personally and financially. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You won't sit idle for long and will find great comfort in stepping up and taking care of business. Accept responsibility beforehand for the outcome of your plans. Travel and talks will help your cause. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got the ability to talk anyone in or out of anything. Travel plans or involvement in interest groups will allow you to interact with people from different backgrounds. Don't consider spending money on products that promise the impossible. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can stabilize your financial position by rearranging your assets and tightening your budget. Finalizing something you've been working on a long time by making alterations that never occurred to you in the past will result in higher revenue. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll know exactly how to get your way but, if you use emotional blackmail, you may end up giving up what you gain in order to keep the peace. Changes at home will give you greater freedom to follow the path that suits you best. Adventure is in front of you; let go of the past. ****

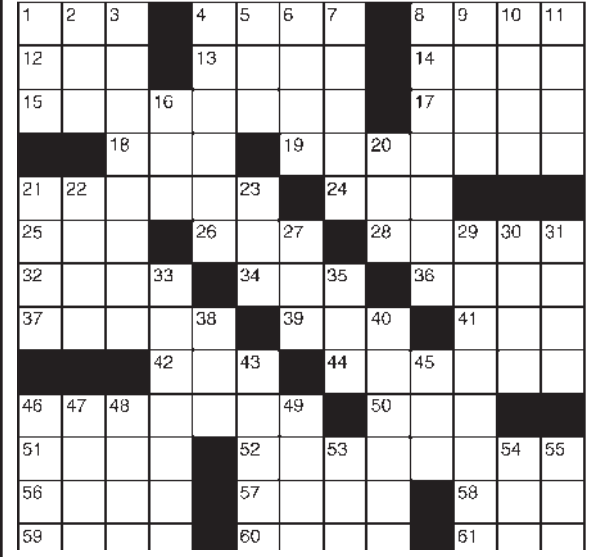
EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be impulsive when it comes to love and spending money. Curb your enthusiasm before you have to do something you don't want to. Choose your battles and don't let your emotions lead you in an irreversible direction. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to what you know and the people with whom you are most comfortable. Changes to your living arrangements will make you feel more at ease and better situated to pursue your interests. Don't let a past friendship interfere with your life now. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be caught in the middle of an awkward situation. If you meddle, prepare to face complaints and, if you don't, you will have to watch someone head in a direction you don't like. Focus on work and money. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a perfectionist. You are inquisitive and relish new experiences. Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and imaginative. You have stamina and discipline, you are receptive to change and welcome a challenge. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	8	6	4	9	2	5	7
7	6	2	8	1	5	3	4	9
4	9	5	2	3	7	6	1	8
8	2	6	9	5	3	1	7	4
3	7	4	1	6	8	5	9	2
5	1	9	4	7	2	8	6	3
6	4	7	3	2	1	9	8	5
2	8	1	5	9	4	7	3	6
9	5	3	7	8	6	4	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAIR PRODUCTS Solution: 7 letters

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RHSTICKYDOBCCLM
ENGNI LRUCSOGOAI
S(T)F(I)L RHSLNGNLSL
UNOLASTEDANI OUD
FMSEIRG IAS IHRSE
FRWNOTT IUTTSSAH
IINOIDS SRETAWFS
DFGROITNS LEWIEA
EUSNOAHTASSXRHW
TIESINDSSRINSEED
NRTNITL UANBDDAN
EHSURBOAGFLALDE
COMBSMHSHAMPOOL
SYARPSRIAHCISAB

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Yesterday's Answer: Tapes

SALE: The "puzzle" "Wonderword" is a registered trademark of David Ouellet. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. ©2011 In verse, Inc. All rights reserved. 1-800-226-5955

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of: Case No.:
DAVIS LOREN 11-0107
JOAB NOTICE OF HEARING
Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on the 14th day of June 2011, at 1:30 p.m., in the Courtroom of the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, there shall be a hearing to appoint Mr. Bill Bezzant as Administrator of the Estate of Davis Loren Joab, deceased.

If any person objects to this appointment they should appear at the above noted hearing and present their objection.

Any creditors of the decedent must make a claim against the Estate within 60 days of the date of this Notice or be barred from such thereafter.

Claims may be filed with the Law Office of Loren A. Sutton at the address in the letterhead, above or with the Superior Court Clerk's office in Susupe, Saipan

Dated: 6/6/2011
/s/ Clerk of the Superior Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113 D
ESTEBAN RASANG NOGIS, FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 31st day of May, 2011:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Ailing Nowitzki lifts Mavericks, NBA finals tied



DALLAS (AP)—Coughing and wheezing, his temperature spiking to 101, worn out from hardly sleeping the night before, Dirk Nowitzki went through three miserable quarters in Game 4 of the NBA finals.

Yet the fourth quarter was his time to shine. Again.

And now the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat are starting over in the NBA finals, this best-of-seven series reduced to a best-of-three.

Nowitzki fought through a sinus infection and everything else that ailed him and his team to power a 21-9 run over the final 10:12, lifting the Mavericks to a memorable 86-83 victory Tuesday night.

In the final period, Nowitzki scored 10 of his 21 points—including a driving right-handed layup that spun in off the backboard with 14.4 seconds left—and grabbed five of his 11 rebounds as Dallas pulled off its second stunning finish this series.

“Just battle it out,” Nowitzki said, sniffing throughout his post-game interview with his warm-up jacket zipped all the way up, still in his uniform instead of changing into street clothes like the NBA prefers. “This is the finals. You have to go out there and compete and try your best for your team. So that’s what I did.”

The Mavs avoided going down 3-1, a deficit no team has ever overcome in the finals, and guaranteed the series will return to Miami for a Game 6 on Sunday night.

Game 5 is Thursday night in Dallas, and Nowitzki vowed to be ready.

“There’s no long term,” Nowitzki said. “I’ll be all right on Thursday. ... Hopefully I’ll get some sleep tonight, take some meds and be ready to go on Thursday.”

Nowitzki wasn’t as dominant as Michael Jordan when he scored 38 points despite a 103-degree fever in Game 5 of the 1997 finals—but it was that kind of performance down the stretch. With everyone knowing he wasn’t at full strength, the Mavs still ran their offense through him in the fourth quarter, and he delivered,



Dallas Mavericks’ Dirk Nowitzki (41) tries to shoot past Miami Heat’s Joel Anthony (50) during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA Finals basketball game Tuesday, June 7, 2011, in Dallas.

making 2 of 6 shots and all six of his free throws.

If the Mavericks wind up winning their first championship, what Nowitzki’s done this series will go down among the greatest. Remember, in Game 2 he bounced back from a torn tendon in the tip of his left middle finger to score the final nine points in Dallas’ 22-5 rally, including two left-handed layups among his final three baskets.

“The average person, you know, has sick days and battling 100-something (fever), it’s just tough to get out of bed,” Dallas center Tyson Chandler said. “This guy is playing against the best athletes in the world.”

What Nowitzki did grows in stature when compared to how meek a healthy LeBron James played.

James made only 3 of 11 shots—a tip-in during the first quarter, then a 15-foot jumper and a breakaway dunk in the third quarter. Not only did he fail to score in the fourth, he took only one shot while playing all 12 minutes.

He finished with eight points, ending a double-figure scoring streak of 433 consecutive games, regular season and post-season. It was his fewest points ever in the playoffs.

“I’ve got to do a better job of being more assertive offensive-

ly,” said James, who nonetheless contributed nine rebounds and seven assists. “I’m confident in my ability. It’s just about going out there and knocking them down.”

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 32 points, but missed a free throw with 30.1 seconds left and fumbled an inbounds pass with 6.7 seconds left. He knocked the ball back to Mike Miller for a potential tying 3-pointer, but it wasn’t even close to hitting the rim. Fans jumped to their feet and began roaring as soon as they could tell the ball was off-target.

Dallas players savored it, too, except for Nowitzki, who walked off looking somewhat

sullen, obviously ready for a hot shower and a warm bed.

His illness hit Monday night. After struggling to get any rest, he showed up for shootaround but hardly did anything.

His condition was kept a secret, and he helped keep it that way by hitting his first three shots. Then he missed 10 of 11 and it was obvious something was wrong. The biggest giveaway: he also missed a free throw for the first time since Game 4 of the conference finals.

The Heat didn’t know, and didn’t care.

“There is not an illness report before the game or anything,” Miami’s Chris Bosh said. “I’ve never been out there and somebody pointed and said, ‘He’s got a fever!’”

Mavs coach Rick Carlisle tried resting Nowitzki as much as he could. During timeouts, he stayed in his chair as long as possible, trying to conserve every ounce of energy.

“You’ve got a guy that’s 7 foot, there’s a different kind of toll it takes on your body when you’re sick,” Carlisle said. “Everyone could tell looking at him that he labored.”

This series is now more fascinating than ever. It just went from two games decided by two points, the first time that happened in the finals since 1998, to being settled by three points.

Coming into this game, the Heat felt they should have been up 3-0. The Mavs felt they should have been up 2-1. This game was all about figuring out whether Miami was going to runaway with the championship, as many have expected since “The Decision” last summer, or if the plucky veterans from Dallas really had what it took to be champs for the first time.

Now it’s 2-2. Both teams are 1-1 at home, and all those stats about who wins under various circumstances seem pretty moot.

The folks in the NBA office and at ABC are loving it the most. Ratings already have been setting records and they’re sure to be up again, with interest for Game 5 higher than ever.

“This series is a jump ball,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “These guys live for these type of moments. It’s about execu-

tion and disposition in the fourth quarter, being able to close out. We have a golden opportunity in the next game.”

Miami seemed to have taken control when it went ahead 74-65, its biggest lead of the night. Then Dallas went to a zone and the Heat struggled.

They scored a series-low 14 points in the fourth quarter, committing six turnovers and making only 5 of 15 shots. They actually made their first two, so they missed 10 of their final 13.

Jason Terry—who kick-started Dallas’ Game 2 comeback with six straight points, but was 0 for 7 in the fourth quarter of the other two games—got the Mavs going with consecutive baskets. He capped the winning rally with two free throws with 6.7 seconds left that forced Miami to need a 3-pointer to force overtime.

“These are two teams trying to figure out a way to make plays down the stretch,” James said. “We’ve seen in this series a seven- or eight-point lead is nothing. You just got to continue to execute offensively, continue to grind defensively, and put yourself in the best possible chance to win late.”

Carlisle shook up Dallas’ lineup, starting J.J. Barea instead of DeShawn Stevenson, and made Brian Cardinal the primary backup for Nowitzki, instead of Peja Stojakovic. Like his late move to the zone, these changes worked out quite nicely. He also made an adjustment after Miami grabbed nine offensive rebounds in the first quarter; the Heat got just six more.

Stevenson scored 11 points, his first time in double-digits since Feb. 2. Cardinal drew a charge on James early and provided seven solid minutes, giving Nowitzki much-needed rest.

Terry scored 17, Shawn Marion 16 and Chandler had 13 points and 16 rebounds.

Backup center Brendan Haywood returned to the lineup after missing Game 3 with a hip injury, but lasted only 3:05. Chandler could tell he was hurting and jumped off the bench to go back in.

“I told Coach, ‘You have to get me back out there, I will play 48 (minutes) if I need to,’” Chandler said.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods pulled out of the U.S. Open on Tuesday because of lingering issues with his left leg, leaving him uncertain how soon he can resume his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus’ record for major titles.

It will be the first time Woods has missed the U.S. Open since 1994, when he had just graduated high school.

“I am extremely disappointed that I won’t be playing in the U.S. Open, but it’s time for me to listen to my doctors and focus on the future,” Woods said on his website. “I was hopeful that I could play, but if I did, I risk further damage to my left leg. My knee and Achilles tendon are not fully healed.”

Woods said he hoped to be ready for the AT&T National, which starts June 30 at Aronimink, and the next two majors. Then again, he said two weeks ago he would do everything possible to be ready for

Tiger Woods to skip US Open

the U.S. Open, which is far more significant.

“We’re very disappointed that he won’t be playing in the National Open,” USGA executive director Mike Davis said, whom Woods called Tuesday morning. “He certainly brings excitement to the event. He’ll be missed, but the U.S. Open will go on. The event is bigger than one player, but he certainly will be missed.”

The U.S. Open starts June 16 at Congressional, where Woods won the AT&T National two years ago and tied for 19th when the U.S. Open was last played there in 1997.

Woods was replaced by Michael Whitehead, a senior at Rice who was first alternate from the Dallas qualifier. Whitehead had to win a playoff just to get out of the first stage of 18-hole qualifying, and was stunned to get the news.

“They said on the phone that Tiger has withdrawn from the Open,” Whitehead said. “So, ‘Thanks, Tiger.’ I guess I’m glad he was listening to his doctors.”

The future of Woods, meanwhile, is as muddled as ever.

“The hardest thing in the world as a golfer, or any athlete, is to stay out,” two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange said. “It’s smart what he’s doing. Unfortunately, the U.S. Open falls in that time frame. But every time something happens, and the longer he’s away from the game, it’s going to make it tougher for him to come back.”

“It’s going to be harder and harder the long this goes.”

Woods hasn’t won since the 2009 Australian Masters, a stretch of 22 tournaments. He not only

lost his No. 1 ranking late last year, he has plunged to No. 15 in the world, his lowest spot in the ranking since the spring of 1997.

Woods announced his decision on Twitter: “Not playing in US Open. Very disappointed. Short-term frustration for long-term gain.”

He had said in his most recent press conference that his injury was “not the doomsday that some of the press members are writing about.” Some in his camp believe if he had skipped The Players Championship, his left leg would have been fully healed perhaps in time for the Memorial, which he missed last week.

Only Woods knows what kind of shape his leg is in, although he said another surgery has never been brought up by his doctors.

The Masters is now the only major Woods has played every year since turning pro. He was recovering from knee surgery in 2008 and did not play the British Open and PGA Championship.

Ortiz homer helps Red Sox beat Yankees



NEW YORK (AP) —

David Ortiz hit a two-run homer to help the Boston Red Sox beat the archrival New York Yankees 6-4 in the American League on Tuesday.

Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon labored through the ninth inning to earn his 200th career save.

Jacoby Ellsbury led off the game with a home run and Adrian Gonzalez hit an RBI triple as the Red Sox roughed up Freddy Garcia (4-5) early to move within two percentage points of the first-place Yankees in the AL East.

Working on seven days' rest, Boston starter Jon Lester (8-2) gave up three runs in six innings.

Tigers 8, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Austin Jackson had three of Detroit's season-high 20 hits as Detroit powered past Texas.

Anight after getting 18 hits, Detroit bats were alight again. Jackson helped the Tigers win a fourth straight with three RBIs. Detroit scored four runs in the fourth off Matt Harrison (5-5). Every Tiger in the lineup had at least one hit, including Casper Wells, Alex Avila, and Victor Martinez, who had three hits apiece.

Detroit starter Rick Porcello (6-3) won for the sixth time in his past seven outings, giving up just one run over six innings against the AL West-leading Rangers.

Rays 4, Angels 1

In Anaheim, rookie Alex Cobb pitched 6 1-3 strong innings to earn his first major league victory and steer Tampa Bay past Los Angeles.

Cobb (1-0) allowed one run in his third major league start and first on the road.

B.J. Upton homered for the Rays, who have struggled over the past month after a strong start.

Dan Haren (5-4) gave up eight hits in seven innings for the Angels, who have lost four straight.

White Sox 5, Mariners 1

In Chicago, Paul Konerko and Carlos Quentin homered for Chicago in the win over Seattle.

Konerko's solo shot in the second inning was his second in as many days and fourth in six games. The homer also marked the 1,000th run of his career.

Quentin's two-run shot in the third inning was his 15th of the season.

White Sox starter Phil Humber (5-3) worked 7 2-3 innings, yielding just one run and striking out five.

Mariners starter Felix Hernandez (6-5) allowed five runs over 6 2-3 innings.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Adam Lind and J.P. Arencibia each hit a two-



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz follows through on a two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

run homer to lead Toronto over Kansas City.

Lind homered off Vin Mazzaro (0-1) in a three-run first inning.

Blue Jays rookie starter Kyle Drabek (4-4), who failed to get out of the first inning in his previous start, labored through 5 1-3 innings to pick up the win. He gave up nine hits and four wild pitches.

Indians 1, Twins 0

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco took a shutout into the ninth inning as Cleveland snuffed out Minnesota's streak of five straight wins.

Carrasco (5-3) struck out six and walked one over 8 1-3 innings as Cleveland avoided its first eight-game losing skid ever at Progressive Field.

With a runner on second, Indians closer Chris Perez got Michael Cuddyer on a called third strike for his 15th save in 16 chances.

Twins starter Francisco Liriano (3-6) came off the disabled list and matching Carrasco for five innings but took the loss.

Orioles 4, Athletics 0

In Baltimore, Oakland's losing skid reached a season-worst eight games, beaten by Baltimore.

J.J. Hardy, Luke Scott and Adam Jones hit solo homers for the Orioles, who guaranteed they will not lose a ninth successive series to the Athletics.

Hardy and Scott connected against Guillermo Moscoso (2-2), and Jones—who had

three hits—made it 3-0 in the sixth. Mark Reynolds added an RBI double in the seventh.

Baltimore pitcher Chris Jakubauskas (1-0) came into the game with a poor record as a reliever this season but was pushed into action as a starter because the Orioles have a four-man rotation but were playing for a fifth straight day.

Dodgers 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Rubby De La Rosa pitched five effective innings in his first career start to steer the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League on Tuesday.

De La Rosa (2-0) allowed one run, but constantly had to pitch out of trouble because he walked five and gave up four hits.

Dee Gordon had three hits in his first start while Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer for

the Dodgers.

Phillies starter Roy Oswalt (3-4) lost his fourth straight decision. He allowed four runs in six innings to remain winless since April 21.

Braves 1, Marlins 0

In Miami, Atlanta got only two hits but that was enough to edge Florida.

Florida's Brad Hand (0-1) went six innings in his major league debut and allowed just one hit — a homer by Alex Gonzalez leading off the fourth.

That was too much for the Marlins, who stranded 10 and went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position. In the first five games of their homestand, they've left 49 men on base while batting .152 with runners in scoring position.

Atlanta starter Tommy Hanson (7-4) pitched six scoreless innings. He has shut out Florida in 13 innings over two starts this

season.

Craig Kimbrel followed with a hitless ninth for his 18th save in 22 chances.

Mets 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Jose Reyes hit a two-run triple to give New York the lead in the seventh inning and the Mets held on to beat Milwaukee.

Reyes' triple came off reliever Marco Estrada (1-3) and wasted an impressive start from Milwaukee's Shaun Marcum, who pitched six scoreless innings.

Prince Fielder hit his 15th home run of the season to give the Brewers the lead in the sixth. But that was the only big mistake of the night for Mets starter Chris Capuano (4-6), a longtime Brewers player making his return to Milwaukee.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Pirates 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Pittsburgh, Lyle Overbay hit a three-run double to cap a five-run eighth inning that lifted Pittsburgh over Arizona.

The Diamondbacks were in position for a seventh consecutive road win but reliever Daniel Hernandez (2-2) did not retire any of the six batters he faced in the eighth.

Jose Tabata had an RBI double and Josh Harrison an RBI single before Overbay's line drive with the bases loaded.

It was the first time Arizona had lost this season in the 25 games they led after seven innings.

Pirates reliever Chris Resop (2-1) got a strikeout to end the top of the eighth, and Joel Hanrahan had two strikeouts working a perfect ninth for his 15th save in as many opportunities.

Nationals 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Jordan Zimmermann pitched seven impressive innings and drove in the tiebreaking run with a safety squeeze to lead Washington over San Francisco.

Zimmermann (4-6) won consecutive starts for the first time this year.

Ian Desmond had an RBI single and Wilson Ramos added two hits as the Nationals won despite stranding 11 runners.

Giants starter Jonathan Sanchez (4-4) took the loss.

Cardinals 7, Astros 4

In Houston, Jake Westbrook shook off his early trouble on the mound by hitting a three-run, tie-breaking double to help St. Louis defeat Houston.

Westbrook (6-3) gave up a two-run homer in the first inning, but didn't allow another earned run and took his fourth win in a row. His bases-loaded, two-out double off Houston starter Brett Myers (2-5) made it 5-2 in the fourth inning.

Former Houston star Lance Berkman hit his 13th homer of the season for the Cardinals on a two-run shot in the first inning and Albert Pujols homered for the fourth straight game with a solo blast in the eighth.

It was the NL-Central leading Cardinals' fourth straight win. The Astros have lost four in a row.

Padres 2, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Alberto Gonzalez and pitcher Tim Stauffer had consecutive RBI singles with two outs in the fifth and that proved enough for San Diego to down Colorado.

Stauffer (2-4) struck out eight in as many innings — both career highs — to shut down Colorado, issuing only one walk. He and Heath Bell combined on a five-hitter, with Bell pitching the ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances. It was San Diego's third shutout after they tied the franchise record with 20 last year. Colorado was shut out for the third time.

Rockies starter Ubaldo Jimenez (1-6) was an unlucky loser. He struck out a season-high eight and walked none in seven innings while allowing just two runs.

Reds 8, Cubs 2

In Cincinnati, Miguel Cairo hit a grand slam as Cincinnati continued its dominance of Chicago.

Reds starter Edinson Volquez (4-2), recalled from the minors, lasted a season-high seven innings, allowing one run while striking out five. He improved his career record against Chicago to 4-0 in six starts.

He also contributed two sacrifice bunts and a rally-starting single as Cincinnati sent the Cubs to their eighth consecutive loss—their longest skid in over a year.

Chicago's Doug Davis (0-5) took the loss.

Sources: Players, owners hold secret meetings



NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL and its players held talks Tuesday in New York, seeking a resolution to the labor impasse.

Three people familiar with the meetings confirmed to The Associated Press that the two groups met. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings were supposed to be confidential.

One of the people confirmed the sides met in New York.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the

league has no comment on the meeting, first reported by the NFL Network.

This is the second time in the last week the two sides have met, including a three-day session outside Chicago that included Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith. The idea is simple: face-to-face negotiations are more likely to lead to a new collective bargaining agreement than court actions.

Last Friday, both sides appeared before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, arguing whether the owners' lock-

out of the players is legal. The lockout is approaching its third month, with the first preseason game just two months away.

If the federal appeals court orders the lockout lifted, the owners would need to implement a system for free agency, perhaps with a salary cap, and would not get the new business model they are seeking.

The federal appeals court has said it will rule in "due course." Judge Kermit Bye, however, advised the two sides to work it out, saying the court's decision likely will be "something both sides aren't going to like."

Week 2 of DFS Junior Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Chris Park in action during his U15 title game against Chris Cajigan.

Emily Jones returns to Carol Lee during their girls U12 singles game in the 2011 DFS Junior Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.



Daniel Lim gets ready for a baseline return.



Christian Miller returns to Daniel Park during their U18 semis game.



Aaron Lee gets ready to serve during his and Daniel Lim's doubles game against Chris Cajigan and Carl Dela Cruz



Chris Cajigan goes for a two-handed return against Moris Villanueva during their U15 semis game.



Rafael Jones hits the ball from the baseline during his U18 match against Thea Minor.



Carl Dela Cruz serves against Chris Park.

Moris Villanueva makes a return near the net.





**Ortiz homer
helps Red Sox
beat Yankees**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Ailing Nowitzki
lifts Mavericks,
NBA finals tied**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011

Former HK star striker conducts clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Hong Kong football star Leslie George Santos and two other officials from Hong Kong-based Chelsea FC Soccer School are in town to conduct a series of clinics and attend the opening of the Saipan Soccer School.

Santos is the technical director of both the Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) and Santos Soccer School and will be on Saipan for five days to join Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) head coach Kwok On Tsui and technical director Luam Khen Koo in holding a three-day clinic with CNMI players.



Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) is affiliated with the famous English football club in West London and has over 10 AFC (Asian Football Confederation) qualified head and assistant coaches. Santos is one of them, as he and other coaches attended an clinic with CNMI players.

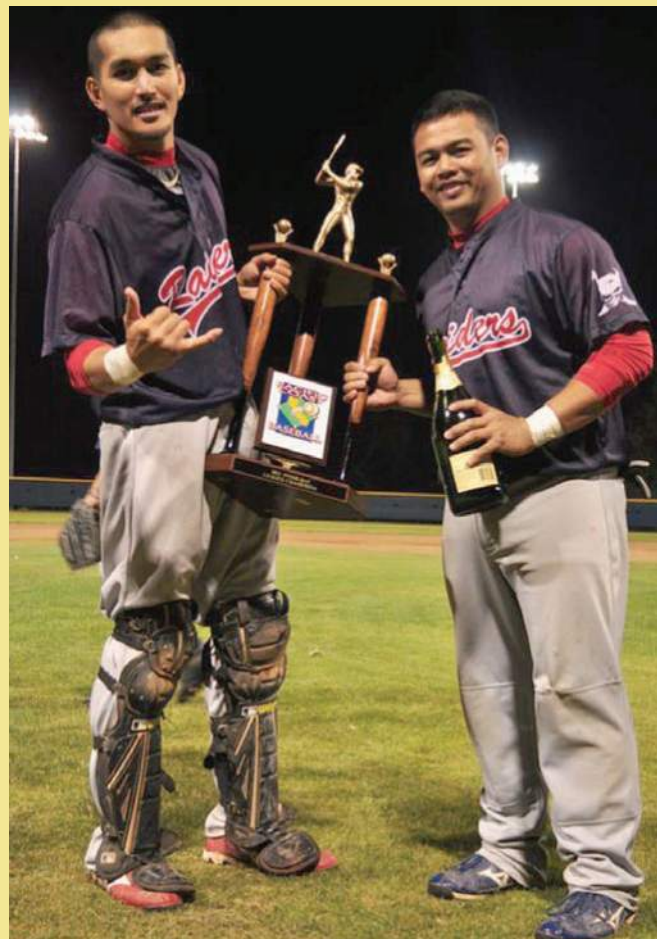
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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Former Hong Kong star striker Leslie George Santos, left, and a Tan Holdings U15 player perform a drill based on the instructions of Chelsea FC Soccer School head coach Kwok On Tsui during a clinic yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Garcia siblings secure semi-pro baseball crown



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesse, left, and Jester Garcia pose with their championship trophy after helping the SCV Raiders to a title win in the wood bat spring competition of the Pacific Coast Baseball League in California.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Former CNMI National Baseball Team member Jester Garcia and brother, Jesse, brought their winning ways

to the Pacific Coast Baseball League, helping the SCV Raiders to a victory in the 2011 Spring Wood Bat Championships late last month.

The Raiders shut out the Reds in the finals, 10-0, avenging their lone loss of the season. The eventual champions

See GARCIA on Page 26

Tammy is Tsunami's Rookie of the Year

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Nine-year-old Miku Tammy turned out to be Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's prized recruit for the 2010-2011 season.

Tammy, who just learned to swim during the American Red Cross lessons last year, was handed the Tsunami Saipan Rookie of the Year award for her significant performance in her first season with the club.

The Tsunami Saipan tanker improved her times in every meet she competed in with the last one two weeks ago at the 2011 Guam Championship. Tammy participated in the Guam tournament for the first time and recorded personal best times in all of her five events.

In the 50m backstroke race, she timed in at 47.07 seconds, shaving more than two seconds from her previous PBT (49.63 seconds). Then in the 50m but-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center Rookie of the Year Miku Tammy, shows her trophy and poses with club's president Stan Good during the recognition ceremony last Sunday at Marianas Resort.

terfly event, she timed in at 40.66 seconds, surpassing her 42.34 seconds mark. Tammy also topped that event, winning against six other swimmers.

In the 200m individual medley, Tammy was the runner-up with a time of 3:27.28, which was way ahead of her previous PBT of 3:44.90. Tammy also joined the 100m freestyle race and for the fourth time set a new PBT at 1:30.64, eclipsing her seed time of 1:31.60.

The 50m freestyle was Tammy's last event in the competition and she clocked in at 38.75 seconds, which was faster than her previous PBT of 40.03 seconds.

"Next season, we really expect for more improvement from Miku," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

Besides the Rookie of the Year award, Tsunami Saipan also honored other outstanding swimmers of the club during its recognition ceremony last Sunday at Marianas Resort.

Brothers Kaito, Ryuto, and Hiroto Ya-

See TAMMY on Page 26

\$10K hole-in-one prizes at PH Independence Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



A whopping \$10,000 will be at stake as hole-in-one prizes in the 113th Philippine Independence Day Open Golf

Tournament that will kick off this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

The prizes will be split for hole No. 3 and No. 12 and golfers can also join the closest to the pin contest on these two holes and the No. 7 and 14 holes. A mulligan will be sold at \$5 for two strokes.

Besides the hole-in-one priz-

es, organizers will also give cash prizes to the Top 5 finishers in the double-peoria tournament. The champion will take home \$700, \$500 for the runner-up, \$400 for third, \$200 for fourth, and \$100 for fifth. The Top 3 placers will also win trophies. Entrance fee is only \$100,

inclusive of cart rent and admission to the banquet at the Aqua Resort Club's Rey Lounge from 6pm to 10pm. Show-time is at 10am, while a shotgun tee-off will take place at 12pm.

The Philippine Independence Day Open is organized by the

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